

## **LABOR CHALLENGE – 1950 - – articles by Ross Dowson (Pseudonym Paul Kane) & editorial articles**

03\_01st-2 (Editorial article) Outlook for Left; With program, organization it can play historic role (the RWP assesses it's tasks in relation to the rightward drift of the CCF)

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05\_01st-3a Winnipeg General Strike, by Ross Dowson

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Paul Kane (Coldwell leadership continues unilateral rightward drift)

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## UNEMPLOYMENT HITS DOMINION

### 15,600 Vote for RWP Candidate

#### Labor Vote Declines In Boss-slate Sweep

Some 15,600 citizens of Toronto, out of the 330 odd thousands who are fortunate enough to have the franchise cast their vote on January 2nd for the mayoralty candidate of the Revolutionary Workers Party, Ross Dowson.

Hiram McCallum headed the Tory-Liberal administration in its return to office with a vote of 133,320, the largest vote in the city's history. Ex-police constable C. H. Mahoney, "common sense" candidate for mayor, polled 19,658 votes.

The Tory-Liberal administration swept the polls, defeating Stewart Smith, a leading Stalinist, in his fourth attempt to regain a seat on the Board of Control. Smith polled just over 45,000 votes, a slight increase over last year but 27,000 short of the lowest of the four elected controllers. Charles Sims one of two long sitting Stalinist aldermen, lost his seat, not polling quite the same vote as last year.

#### ONLY VICTORY

The only victory that labor could point to was the election of Lester Nelson as alderman. Nelson, endorsed by the Toronto Labor Council and known by some as a CCF'er had the support of the capitalist press, appearing on their slates. Mrs. Temple, distinguished as a CCF'er only by reason of the fact that she is the wife of a CCF member of provincial parliament, headed the poll in her ward to win a seat on the Board of Education.

This year, as in the past four years that it has run a candidate for mayor, the Revolutionary Workers Party campaign was the only real labor campaign in the elections.

The CCF, despite the fact that it swept the Toronto ridings in the 1948 provincial elections, ran no candidate for Board of Control. It endorsed only six candidates for the 18 aldermanic posts and only two for the 18 seats on the Board of Education. One of the Board of Education candidates received an acclamation. Only two candidates ran openly as CCFers; the political platform or affiliation of the rest was unknown to the majority of the voters. Only four bothered to present their names for endorsement by the Toronto Labor Council.

#### ACTION NOW



OL-OL-1a

#### INCREDIBLE STATEMENT

One of the CCF candidates, endorsed by the CCL Council and also by the capitalist press, made the incredible statement at an election meeting "that it is not the big capitalist people who are exploiting the working man now. It is their fellow workers through exorbitant rents. The working man is just as much to blame as big business for exploiting his fellow man."

The Stalinist Labor Progressive Party ran Stewart Smith for Board of Control and three candidates for aldermanic posts. They ran four for Board of Education, one of whom the Tory's did not even bother to challenge, giving them an acclamation. The Stalinist candidates ran as private citizens and canvassers were instructed to deny that they were "communists."

#### NO LABOR PLATFORM

"The Stalinist campaign was quite empty of any labor content with Smith not even cutting the figure

#### GOVERNMENT IGNORES CRISIS AS RANKS OF JOBLESS GROW

"Nowhere is there such unbounded opportunity, so many frontiers to be opened. And nowhere are there so many signs of the approach of a new era of expansion and prosperity," said James S. Duncan, president of the sprawling Massey-Harris empire, of Canada, on January 6th:

Dividend payments to shareholders of stocks listed on the Montreal exchange reached an all-time high of \$121 million, the exchange reported the same day. Canada experienced a billion dollar building boom in 1949, blared the headlines nearly double that of fateful 1929 peak year for the industry following World War I.

"Unbounded opportunity", "new frontiers"—bitter words, empty hollow talk for the 461,000 Canadians the government has been forced to admit are jobless. With what a mocking sound these words must ring in the ears of the 30,000 unemployed in Vancouver where welfare agencies have exhausted relief funds. What hypocrisy to the 22 jobless, homeless workers caught sleeping in CPR coaches in Toronto and tossed into jail for 30 days, and to the six unemployed who are out on bail for their part in a demonstration demanding the right to work for all 251,000 unemployed—this startling figure was only wrung out of the government after the Canadian Congress of Labor and the Trades and Labor Congress issued a joint statement exposing the fact that the figures on unemployment insurance claims for the past three months had been withheld and their addresses had been removed.

press try to make light of the plight of these thousands of unemployed and their hundreds of thousands of dependents with sweet talk about the increased labor force in this country, with talk about technological developments, talk which is in some way supposed to lessen the gravity of the situation. All their promises of a "shelf" of public works, all their "plans" to meet future unemployment were revealed to be a monstrous fraud by M. J. Coldwell's enquiries in the house last February.

They have no plans. Plans to meet the problem of unemployment which flows from the collapse of Canada's foreign trade connections and the drying up of the post-war home market—in a word from capitalism and the concentration of the wealth created by labor in the hands of a few monopolists—any plans that will be made will have to be made by the unemployed workers themselves in close alliance with the organized labor movement.

The organization of the unemployed by the trade unions, sparked by the Toronto Labor Council, is the first big step that must be realized.

that Liberal demagogue Lampport cut before the electorate as a defender of their interests. This comparison is valid for Smith's line was of the same general character as Lampport's who dedicated himself to fight against "bunglers" and "incompetence" on the Board.

Stalinist Alderman Sims who runs as labor called for a plump vote to return him to office. In other words don't vote labor and cast one of your two votes for the CCF-CCL endorsed candidate — cast only for Sims.

The RWP put on a big campaign considering the forces at its disposal. Almost 40,000 copies of the party's election platform were distributed by comrades and friends at factory gates and door-to-door in working class areas. The Toronto branch's sound truck emblazoned with signs cruised through the crowded streets.

The party, running its candidate on behalf of all labor appealed to the two labor councils for endorsement. The motion was placed on the floor of the CIO-CCL council

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# LABOR CHALLENGE

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## 15,600 VOTE RWP BOSS SLATE WINS LABOR VOTE FALLS

(Continued from page 1)

by Ron Monkman, leader of the Shoe and Leather Workers Union and a former provincial election candidate for the CCF, but it was defeated. The AFL-TLC Council, which has not committed itself to the principle of labor political action, refused endorsement on the basis of its constitution which requires all candidates endorsed by it to be members of local unions affiliated with the council.

Dowson spoke at a score of election meetings held across the city. At meeting after meeting he advanced the arguments for and proved the need for political action by labor. He defended the unemployed against McCallum's red baiting. He demanded that City Hall take over its responsibilities in the emergency housing projects, and that it put pressure to bear on the Dominion government to divert the millions now going for war preparations to be spent on low-rent low-cost housing projects, day nurseries, etc. He voiced labor's demand for the 18-year-old franchise. He exposed the taxation squeeze on the small home-owner demanding that the partial exemption bracket be raised to \$5,600 at once. He demanded that City Council grant the workers in the municipally-owned street car system their justified wage demands and warned against the conspiracy that is afoot to raise fares.

The record vote was cast on the basis of two referendums that were placed before the electorate. One referendum asked for a change in the voting day to early in December. The other was on the relaxation of Toronto's notorious Sunday blue laws.

### BIG POLL

The change in election day supported by the CCL Council was opposed by the LPP who were ap-

parently satisfied, since they had two aldermanic seats, with the voters that turned out on New Year's Day.

The referendum for the lifting of the blue laws was evaded like a hot potato by the LPP and vigorously opposed by all CCF candidates but one. The RWP stated its support for the lifting of the blue laws but refused to get sucked into the campaign which the capitalist candidates whipped up around the question to hide the real issues before the workers.

While the Sunday sports referendum brought out a huge poll and the yes vote won, it was not reflected in an increased vote for labor. The Stalinist vote remained frozen. While three CCF candidates' votes showed a considerable increase, others took a precipitous drop. The two aldermanic candidates most clearly marked as CCF had their vote cut almost to half of last year's while another decreased by a third.

The RWP vote dropped 8,045 from last year's 23,645 votes. While this year saw a third candidate in the mayoralty race, last year's vote in a poll by poll breakdown proved to have very little grudge content, following as it did the vote cast for known CCF and LPP candidates.

This election, unlike last year's which followed a CCF landslide in the provincial election, came on the heels of the CCF debacle in the federal elections. This fact no doubt had a serious effect on the vote. The poll by poll breakdown is not yet available to enable us to interpret the wide variations in the CCF vote, the static character of the Stalinist vote in the face of the increased poll, nor important questions around the RWP vote.

One thing is certain however—the vote polled by the RWP is more conscious than ever before because the RWP program is better and more widely known than before. The 15,600 votes cast for Dowson is a big step forward in the struggle for a socialist Canada and a great victory for the Fourth International.

## RWP Candidate Speaks

*We reproduce a speech that Ross Dowson, Revolutionary Workers Party mayoralty candidate gave over station CKEY as the election returns were piling up on the evening of January 2nd. Hundreds of thousands in the Toronto area listening to the returns heard this speech which followed close on the heels of Mayor-elect McCallum's.*

Citizens of the Toronto area; the poll rolled up behind my candidature is not as impressive as last year. From returns that are now at our disposal it would seem that it reflects a general drop in the vote cast for the few Labor Progressive and Co-operative Commonwealth Federation candidates.

Labor has suffered a defeat in this election—a Tory-Liberal Board of Control has been placed back into office to rule the second largest city in the country.

This defeat however was assured from the outset. Not that there is any valid reason for it. Labor is strong enough, it is powerful enough to win whatever it needs and sets its mind to. The 100,000 trade unionists in the Toronto area could have a labor mayor and a labor administration—a Council that would supplement their struggle waged in the factories against the bosses through the unions with a political struggle against the bosses' representatives in Toronto and Ottawa.

This defeat was assured when those who lay claim to leadership of the organized labor movement in this area failed to present a real labor slate before the workers, organized around a fighting labor program. This defeat was assured when the CCF, which has been endorsed as the political arm of labor by the Canadian Congress of Labor (CIO) and swept the Toronto provincial ridings in 1948, failed to present a labor slate to the Toronto electorate—above all when it failed to run even one candidate for the Board of Control.

The Revolutionary Workers Party hopes that this vote rolled up behind our campaign—a campaign which was pitifully small because of our as yet smallness of forces and our lack of funds—we hope that our campaign and its excellent results will rouse the organized labor movement to put the heat on its leadership to recognize its responsibilities, or failing this, erect a new leadership that will see next year a complete labor slate up before the Toronto electorate and a labor council in the seats now occupied by the representatives of Canada's 50 Big Shots.

Thousands and thousands of Canadian workers are becoming increasingly aware that this society is sick—is sick with a disease called capitalist exploitation. Some of the lesser effects of this pestilent disease are low wages and high costs, mal-

nutrition, poor or no housing. Now unemployment is hitting wider and wider numbers.

It is only four years after a World War which was without parallel in the history of mankind for destructiveness, a war supposedly fought for peace and democracy, and now this fever-wracked society threatens to pull mankind with it into the abyss of atomic warfare.

In this election the Revolutionary Workers Party advanced a program that dealt with these, the real issues confronting mankind. To meet the threat of unemployment we demanded City Council set an example by instituting the 30-hour week with the same take-home pay in all departments under its control. To the excuse that there were no funds to meet urgently needed housing we demanded that pressure be brought to bear on the federal government—divert the millions being spent for war plans for death and destruction, to subsidized low-rent, low-priced housing.

The program that we advanced in this campaign is designed to defend and advance the interests of the working people—the vast majority of the population. It is designed to strike at the very roots of today's problems. All other programs which only patch up and tinker with the results of this system and fail to strike at its roots are futile, hopeless and, in the face of the feverish war preparations, insane.

Thousands of you have voted, have supported this program by the ballot. Not sufficient to put a labor mayor into office but none the less sufficient to register a considerable victory—for this program is not at all just an election program, it is a program of action to unite and guide your struggles on a year-round basis.

Armed with this program, united in our mass organizations, we working people can defend our interests and march onto the road of socialism—a new society which here in America, based on the great productivity of our labor and not encircled by powerful war-like opposition states, will be free from the bureaucratic and anti-democratic rule that the Kremlin oligarchy has thrust onto the Russian peoples.

The Revolutionary Workers Party, and with it labor, has met a defeat in this election. But this election defeat only marks a stage in the forward struggle of the workers for socialism. We swear to carry this campaign forward in the day-to-day struggles of the workers, in the pages of our press **Labor Challenge**, in the unions and the shops.

We intend to carry this struggle forward until our party in unity with its sister parties welded together in the Fourth International has ushered into birth, the peace, plenty and genuine democracy of socialism throughout the world—until the brotherhood of man is realized in socialism.

### Vancouver Readers

are invited to attend

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# Fourth International Answers Yugoslav CP Views on Trotskyism and Internationalism

On Dec. 1 the International Secretariat of the Fourth International issued an open letter to the leadership and members of the Yugoslav Communist Party in reply to official statements made by Veljko Vlahovitch, a member of the Central Committee of that organization, on the question of working class internationalism and Trotskyism. Vlahovitch's statements, issued on the anniversary of the Yugoslav Republic or Nov. 29, consisted of two parts:

1. That "the various reports circulated abroad that the CPY is working for the creation of a new international, a so-called 'Titoist' international, are completely ridiculous."

He justifies this position by asserting that "the reason given for the dissolution of the Comintern (in 1943) was perfectly correct." That reason is that the form of "organization of working class unity chosen by the First Congress of the Communist International... more and more loses its validity."

2. Vlahovitch classifies the supporters of Yugoslavia into two categories: "the numerous communist and progressive workers" and "the other category of people who want to pass themselves off as 'friends,' those diverse suspicious types gathered around a Fourth International, various international spies, etc."

## COMINTERN DISSOLUTION

The International Secretariat rejects the "theoretical" arguments used to justify "the capitulatory and opportunist" dissolution of the Third International as "unworthy of a moment's consideration by those who claim to adhere to Marxism-Leninism." It points out that both the Moscow bureaucracy and world imperialism, with whom it was allied during the war, feared the revolutionary struggles of the international proletariat and the colonial masses.

It was this common fear which led to the dissolution of the Communist International.

The dissolution of the Comintern, the International Secretariat notes, "far from being a wise application of Marxism-Leninism was in conformity with the policy of class collaboration carried on by the Communist Parties of France, Italy, Greece and elsewhere, which led the proletariat to disastrous defeats."

## STILL VALID

Instead of parroting Stalinist ar-

guments, the International Secretariat demands that Vlahovitch answer why the arguments given by Lenin at the time of the formation of the Communist International are no longer valid today: "Has the world communist revolution been achieved? Doesn't capitalism threaten (through the League of Nations then and the United Nations today) the revolution wherever it unfolds ever more ominously than in 1919? Are there no longer new problems which require collective elaboration through the collective organization of the revolutionary move-

## Join the R. W. P.

ment? Is the internationalization of the workers' movement less real than in 1919?"

The attitude of Vlahovitch, who appeared to be speaking in the name of the Yugoslav Communist Party, the IS concludes, signifies objectively a "tendency to capitulate before the double pressure of imperialism and the Kremlin." It then goes on to brand as "poor opportunist excuses borrowed from Stalinism" those considerations of "tactics" and "maneuvering" contrived to avoid unnecessarily provoking world imperialism or the Kremlin. They do not fool the proletariat—or anyone else.

## WHAT IS THEIR PROGRAM?

The IS demands of the Tito leadership: "What is your program for the world proletariat?" Defense of Yugoslavia against the Kremlin and the demand for equal rights "does not constitute a program which can reorganize and re-orient the working class and the colonial masses who have been demoralized by the practices of the Kremlin."

Nor does this constitute an adequate program for the defense of Yugoslavia. The workers of other countries desire to defend the Yugoslav movement but only "as part of the world revolutionary movement." What will the Tito group say to these workers when they ask: "What should we do to carry on the class struggle in our own country? Obey Thorez, Togliatti, et al, or create a new revolutionary party, a new revolutionary international?"

"As long as you maintain a negative or even vague attitude on the question of the International," the IS states, "conscious revolutionists will judge you with the greatest reserve. You will never have their complete confidence despite all the other progressive aspects of your development. They will see in your refusal to completely and loyally integrate yourself in the world revolutionary movement a grave defect, which up to now has been the hallmark of the retrogressive, nationalist and bureaucratic degeneration of other tendencies in the workers' movement."

## FLINGING MUD

The International Secretariat does not question the right of the Titoist leaders to oppose the ideas of the Fourth International or even struggle against them. But, it says, "it is completely inadmissible to fling mud and suspicion at our movement instead of engaging in an ideological discussion..." The poison-pen smears of Vlahovitch, it continues, are variations on the slanders of the Kremlin and its agents.

Precisely such amalgams were directed by the Kremlin in its Hungarian and Bulgarian trials against the Yugoslavs. It was on that occasion that Piyade, one of the Yugoslav leaders, declared that those trials were staged by the same men who organized the infamous Moscow trials of 1936-38 during which the cream of the Russian Bolshevik Party and the Communist International were exterminated after being slandered as spies, assassins, etc. Piyade pointed out that the degeneration of the Communist parties began with the official proclamation that "Trotskyism had ceased to be a tendency in the international workers' movement and had become an agency of fascism..." From this point on there remains only physical extermination and the burning of heretics, all discussion being prohibited.

But all these truths were ignored by Vlahovitch. The IS states that "you give the painful impression that the prejudices and the rotten practices of the Kremlin are gaining the upper hand in your organization and that you are prepared to utilize against a tendency in the workers' movement, its pre-eminent and Marxist wing, the very same methods that the Kremlin utilized against you."

"We are proud of our organization," the IS continues, "of our program, of our banner under which the best militants of the October Revolution, of the Russian Bolshevik party, of the International fought before they were exterminated by Stalin's butchers... The Fourth International is a world party with national sections in more than 35 countries on all five continents..."

"Despite the isolation into which we have been driven by conditions unfavorable to the world revolution, by the slanderous propaganda of the monstrous Moscow-directed Stalinist apparatus, our movement is active in every country where it has adherents, it is bound to its class, participates in its struggles and is prepared for any sacrifice for the triumph of the invincible ideas of Marx, Lenin and Trotsky."

## TROTSKYIST MARTYRS

"How dare you," the IS demands "use the label of 'suspicious characters' against Trotskyists who during the last war perished in the death camps of Germany and before the firing squads of imperialist reaction!" It then enumerates some of the martyrs and victims of the Fourth International which Vlahovitch dared to call "gathering of imperialist spies":

The IS letter concludes: "We will not remain silent in face of such methods. We will reply to every challenge hurled directly and indirectly at our movement. We will stubbornly defend our ideas, our program, the revolutionary integrity of our movement, our members, our organizations. We will notify the entire world revolutionary vanguard and all the advanced elements to whom you are now appealing for aid to the Yugoslav cause, of every misrepresentation of the truth which some of your leaders are inclined to perpetrate, every erroneous position and every method of struggle borrowed from the corrupt arsenal of the Kremlin leaders."

"Do not underestimate the critical faculties of the elements of the world revolutionary movement whose support you are asking. They will judge you by your actions, by your entire line and not only the correct part of your struggle against the Kremlin."

"You yourself say that the truth must triumph and that it will triumph. Yes, it will triumph."

# LABOR CHALLENGE

A monthly paper bringing the truth about labor's struggle for socialism to the working people of Canada.

Published by

THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY,  
87 KING ST. W., ROOM 5, TORONTO 1, ONT. — ELGIN 9613

Editor, ROSS DOWSON

Subscription: 50 cents for one year subscription (12 issues)

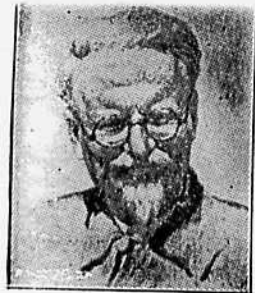
The policy of Labor Challenge is reflected in its editorials. Signed articles and features express the ideas of our contributors and do not necessarily represent the policies or opinion of Labor Challenge.

Set up and printed by Merchants Press, 323 King St. W., Toronto.  
Authorized as Second Class mail by The Post Office Dept., Ottawa

Vol. VI, No. 1 (78)

January, 1950

01-01-4



The historical task of our epoch consists in replacing the uncontrolled play of the market by reasonable planning, disciplining the forces of production, compelling them to work together in harmony and obediently serve the needs of mankind.

—Leon Trotsky

## Lesson From Down Under

After a reign of 14 years the Australian Laborites have been turned out of office by a coalition of avowed capitalist parties.

For many years the CCF leadership have held the New Zealand government, and to a lesser extent the Australian laborites, before the Canadian people as an example of what they would look like when in office in this country.

Today Mr. Coldwell airily dismisses the defeat of these two governments, both of which had ample time and parliamentary strength to demonstrate the superiority of their program to the people, as having little consequence. Merely "the fortunes of war," he says. The editors of the *Saskatchewan Commonwealth*, leaders of a CCF section in provincial office, attempt to suck solace from the defeats as giving the lie to the capitalist charge that once a "socialist" government is voted in, democracy is destroyed and it can't be booted out. Other CCF columnists pass it off on the old stand-by "human nature" and the desire for a change.

The truth of the matter is that sufficient numbers of people became indifferent to or disgusted and demoralized with the 14-year rule of the Laborites to swing the parliamentary scales in favor of the conservatives. In New Zealand 20 per cent less voters registered their choice.

The program of the Australian and New Zealand co-thinkers of Mr. Coldwell was not a Socialist program at all but simply one of mild capitalist reforms, milder even than in Britain. Their conservative capitalist opponents were able to offer virtually the same program, pledging to retain all the "social services," and promising to do everything the Laborites have done.

The Australian defeat contains important lessons and warnings for the CCF rank and file who want a socialist society. It underscores again the role played by reformist politicians. When it becomes impossible for the capitalists to rule in their own name, the reformists step in.

They never go beyond a few minor reforms including "nationalizations" of branches of industry which the capitalists themselves are no longer able to run profitably. They run the country for the benefit of the capitalists; they repress the struggle of the workers, up to and including break-

ing strikes as they recently did in the strike of the Australian coal miners. Meanwhile the capitalists use the breathing spell to reorganize their forces and to blame "socialism" for the continuing evils of their system.

Reformist policies solve nothing precisely because they never go beyond the framework of capitalist relations. And for this same reason they invariably play into the hands of capitalist politicians, paving the way for their return to power.

## Atlantic Pact in Action

The Wall Street inspired alliance for World War III which commenced with the signing of the Atlantic Pact is now entering into its second phase.

The sides have been lined up. The Chiefs of Staff and Defence Ministers have met in Paris, cooked up in secret and agreed upon the military plan, and now they are in the process of arming their forces to the teeth.

This year the St. Laurent government gouged \$383 million out of the pockets of the Canadian people or 16.4 per cent of the national budget for war preparations—on a per capita basis the highest of any Atlantic Pact country except those that maintain overseas forces. What the signees cannot wring out of the peoples over whom they rule Wall Street is prepared to underwrite to the tune of a billion dollars.

The first shipments of arms to France threatened to snag on "general conditions" under which the U.S. agreed to supply arms. The American authorities had placed certain limitations on the use of arms provided under the pact. The French objected. However on December 17, the United Press reported the French foreign office as saying; "We have obtained the withdrawal of all conditions which might embarrass us." The condition was a clause prohibiting the use of U.S. arms outside the Atlantic area. The dispatch simply makes the observation that France is engaged in a war in Indo-China.

The French government is engaged in the butchery of the Indo-Chinese peoples who are struggling to throw the imperialist yoke off their backs. Washington has agreed to arm the colonial despots.

Clause II of the pact—the one calling upon member states to "promote conditions of stability—eliminate conflicts in economic policies—encourage economic collaboration"—is proceeding for the East at the Colombo Conference through the preparation of the proper "climate."

This is the term used by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, G. C. McGhee, to describe the conditions that must prevail before U.S. investment desired by India would be forthcoming.

The proper "climate" he outlined is one that assures convertibility into dollars of earnings wrung out of the slave labor of the colonial peoples and satisfies the U.S. of no possibility of a revolution or national seizure.

Here the first aim of the Atlantic Pact is demonstrated—crush the liberating struggle of the oppressed people.



# AN APPEAL FOR AID BY GREEK WORKERS

The following report appeared in the September issue of *Workers Struggle*, underground publication of the Internationalist Communist Party of Greece (Trotskyists):

Off the southern tip of Attica, there lies the island of Makronissos whose name has become synonymous with horror for the working masses of Greece. Before it was turned into a deportation center, this island was uninhabited. This wasteland, without trees or vegetation, is incessantly lashed by fierce winds from the Aegean sea and from the sea of Crete. There is no water. Clouds of dust hang permanently over Makronissos, truly a hell hole.

For all these reasons the sadistic bourgeoisie of Greece chose Makronissos as the site for its camp of extermination. For three years all workers, peasants and soldiers whom the rulers view with suspicion have been shipped here. Under a regime of indescribable terror and torture, the bourgeoisie has been seeking to root out every trace of class-consciousness among the deportees. All the appropriate means to this end have been applied.

## TWO CAMPS

There are two different camps at Makronissos. One is for military prisoners, virtually all of them soldiers who have been classified as "leftist" or who have refused to fight against the insurgents. The other is for political prisoners, workers and peasants who had been subjected by the thousands to preventive arrests prior to the launching of military operations in a given area.

In the military camp, life is truly unbearable. The soldiers are lodged in tiny tents and, since there are so many of them, they dig underground shelters like tombs and crawl into them. As a consequence they all sooner or later fall ill of acute rheumatism. The rations are very meager and before they can be eaten they become mixed with fine sand. There is no restaurant or canteen of any kind; everything takes place in the open air whether the temperature soars in the summer and drops below freezing in the winter.

Water is brought in by boat and there are frequent shortages when the seas are rough and the boat cannot dock. The soldiers bathe exclusively in sea water. Another scourge for the soldiers are enormous rats; these attack at night inflicting horrible wounds, virtually from head to toe.

The soldiers work the whole day at forced labor at entirely purposeless tasks like transporting rocks. Most insufferable is the psychological pressure exerted upon them. They are compelled to sign declarations repudiating their

ideas, to send out letters to the same effect and to participate in "re-educational" meetings. Three times a day they are compelled, again in open air, to listen to nationalistic speeches, to applaud and to shout "Long Live the King." Those who do not applaud are immediately set to "the Syrma," a special department of the camp for incorrigibles.

To this day, after three years of the existence of the Makronissos camp, not a single person has come back from this Syrma to relate exactly what transpires there. It is certain that the soldiers disappear quickly there, and none talks about it. Many have been killed on the pretext that they sought to escape. No one is permitted to come near "the Syrma." But soldiers, who during their forced labor chores have been brought in the proximity of this sinister place, have told of catching glimpses of veritable human specters wandering around, often atrociously mutilated, with legs and arms broken, eyes gouged out, noses and ears cut off.

## SOLDIERS RESIST

One would think that after all this, the morale of the soldiers would be quickly broken, but this is not at all the case. The soldiers continue to resist in their own way.

Last year, when a battalion was selected among the deportees and brought to the front to fight the partisans, before the battle started most of the soldiers deserted to the partisans. The bloody hangmen were thus obliged to bring the others back again to Makronissos. This is by no means an isolated example. On the whole, the soldiers prefer a hundred times to remain in exile rather than go free to fight under the orders of the bourgeoisie and for its interests.

At the other extremity of Makronissos is located the camp of the politicals. They number many thousands; together with the soldiers, according to official statements of the Athens government, they total some 30,000.

The politicals are better organized. They have their groups and their labor gangs. They are naturally subjected to the same harsh treatment as the soldiers are so far as food, water and tortures are concerned. But they are spared the "re-educational" meetings and speeches.

The revolutionary struggle, as always, is exacting a toll from our party. Our comrades continue their heroic struggle on the crags of Makronissos. Young comrades side



The bodies of two of 23 unarmed Athenian workers, killed by police in a demonstration against the British-propped military dictatorship in 1944, lie grotesquely where they fell. The British took over from the Nazis and now, aided by Wall Street arms and military advisers, the Greek dictatorship continues to crush down upon the people. But the Greek workers struggle on, unbowed, for their freedom.

by side with veteran Trotskyist revolutionists continue their fight against the horrible capitalist oppression. Our party has always had worthy militants and has never taken fright in the face of the waves of reaction. Unwavering fighters in the revolutionary struggle, dozens of our comrades deported to Makronissos are there to remind the working class, every hour, every moment, of its duty.

The militants who have spent more than 30 years in the workers' movement and ordinary members and sympathizers are subjected to a double oppression: not only that of capitalist reaction but also that originating from the Stalinist bureaucrats and their henchmen in the camp, who are under orders to make life impossible for our comrades, to break their nerves and their will to resist.

But our comrades have dedicated their lives to the proletarian cause. They work among the mass of the deportees, and many workers who have broken with the Stalinist bureaucracy follow them. They

suffer, they die, but no word of complaint has passed their lips. They have never asked aid from our party because they know how poor the party is and what new great demands have been imposed on it by illegality.

But we who know their sufferings are appealing to all the organizations of the Fourth International and to the workers of the world:

Help the heroes of Makronissos! Extend moral and material aid to those who are giving their lives for the socialist revolution; to those who are and who will remain symbols of the revolutionary force of the Fourth International; to those who are sacrificing themselves for the workers' struggle!

Organize a campaign in the press and hold solidarity meetings to demand:

The abolition of the Greek extermination camps at Makronissos and Trikeri!

General amnesty to all the Greek militants now in prison or deported!

## PRINTING S UNIONS N ACTION

For the first time  
 in the early twen-  
 tieth century  
 by the unions in  
 the printing field in

each any agreement  
 printers over recent  
 contracts three of the  
 passed resolutions to  
 actively henceforth.  
 the unions has bound  
 to meet representa-  
 tives of the bosses or the  
 separately from the

involved are the  
 union (AFL-TLC) with  
 the Toronto Typo-  
 graphers (AFL-TLC) cover-  
 ing in the commercial  
 printing firms, and the  
 brotherhood of Book-  
 binders (AFL-TLC) with approx-  
 imately 10,000 members under con-

on unified action  
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 sider the report of  
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 ings of the boards in  
 wages and hours.  
 and Bookbinders are  
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ion board's findings  
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 derstand to request  
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that this united  
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 unionization would  
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# GO-AHEAD GIVEN HELL BOMB HUMANITY FACES DESTRUCTION



## PEOPLE MUST DEMAND RIGHT TO VOTE ON PEACE OR WAR

President Truman's fateful order to go full speed ahead with production of the Hydrogen Bomb once again testifies to the crisis into which capitalism in its death agonies has driven mankind.

Is mankind to survive—or is this globe or decisive sections of it to be blasted into oblivion at a signal from the war mongers?

The atom bomb whose horrible efficiency was demonstrated in the blood curdling destruction of Nagasaki and Hiroshima has already, in the West's feverish armament race, become obsolete. The Hell Bomb is the second instalment in the death plan—the annihilation plan—of imperialism.

The Hell Bomb which is now swinging into production, and whose manufacturing problem is certain to be solved at Chalk River and Oak Ridge, with its unlimited blast potential spells out the total annihilation of any and all cities and any and all inhabitants.

Only fools and muddleheads can believe that those who dared to use the A-Bomb on Japan will be squeamish about dropping the dread Hell Bomb which one of the top U.S. atomic scientists admits "may endanger those who explode it as well as those who are its targets." Nor can they any longer pass off the sucker bait that the Soviet Union can be conquered through a "quick cheap war." Soviet scientists have solved the problem of the A Bomb and will certainly learn the "secret" of the Hydrogen Bomb. The price of another war will be the destruction of civilization itself.

If a war of atom bombs left some doubt on this score, if it left some room to believe that the projected assault on the Soviet Union could end in some way, in a "victory" and a "defeat," in a winner and a loser, there can be none now.

Major General Worthington, struck off as co-ordinator of civil defence by Ottawa which has subverted the dream of atomic knowledge at the service of man into spy scares, military maneuvers, and the atomic bomb research plant at Chalk River, finds a thin sliver of light in the fact that H Bombs won't pose the same problem of radiation that arise from A Bombs. It won't bring any basic changes in civil defence plans, he assures us.

But there is no consolation in this for there was no defence against atom bombs and there will be none against the Hell Bomb once it is let loose upon civilization.

The pen prostitutes and apologists for the capitalist rulers of this society who daily keep the pot boiling for war on the Soviet Union, write down, even in their most sanguine of moods, the doom confronting man from an H Bomb war.

"This would not necessarily mean," write the editors of the *Globe and Mail*, "the end of civilization as we know it." It would simply achieve, perhaps overnight the degree of wreckage and desolation brought about by a decade, a generation or a century of fighting under the old rules."

World science is baring the innermost secrets of the universe. But this knowledge, so full of promises for the future of man, is subverted by the rulers of this society to

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1 A FINCHES ORGANIZATION

02-01-1a



# LABOR CHALLENGE

(79) February 1950

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their own suicidal interests—the maintenance of capitalism and the domination of the entire globe.

The discoverers of atomic knowledge, like the Federation of American Scientists and other groups of scientists such as the one headed by the real father of the H Bomb, Dr. Hans A. Bethe, have voiced their despair with the cry that "this bomb is no longer a weapon of war, but a means of extermination of whole populations."

The majority of humankind has no control over this all-powerful knowledge and its application. It is in the stranglehold of the small handful of capitalist rulers of America and their satellites. The power of the H Bomb rests in the hands of a small clique of power-mad maniacs. The decision of all decisions, the power of life or death, not only of cities and continents but civilization, rests in their hands.

President Truman made the decision, gave the go-ahead signal to production of the Hell Bomb with the brazen declaration that the decision was "his and his alone."

Dr. Arthur H. Compton, famous atom scientist and now Chancellor of Washington University in St. Louis, has come out publicly in favor of letting the people decide on whether the Hell Bomb shall be built or not.

In a statement issued January 30 to the International News Service, Dr. Compton flatly rejected the contention that this question could be left to "experts, either militarists or scientists," and insisted that the decision must rest with the people.

To be sure, Dr. Compton shies away from drawing the full and consistent conclusion that flows from his position, namely, that the people themselves must decide the overriding question of peace or war. He even suggests that a "public opinion" poll would serve just as well. It would, of course, be little less than mockery to entrust the final say on any vital issue to the pollsters, the most discredited of all "experts."

But the gist of Dr. Compton's position is sound enough. It stands in refreshing contrast to the position of other scientists who have either remained silent in public, or have plumped for the H Bomb, voicing this or that minor disagreement over how its mass production should be undertaken.

It is necessary to take the warmaking (not only Hell Bomb making) powers out of the hands of St. Laurent and Parliament who are fellow conspirators with Wall Street and let the people themselves decide whether there shall be peace or atomic hell war let loose upon our planet.

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02-01-20

# DUPLESSIS PADLOCKS UJPO PROTEST MOVEMENT RISING

By JEAN LaPLANTE

Premier and Attorney General Maurice Duplessis, the little dictator of Quebec, under the guise of fighting communism, has launched a new wave of terror on minority groups in this province.

Early in the morning of January 27 squad cars of provincial and municipal police converged on the cultural center of the United Jewish People's Order in Montreal and

clamped a padlock on the door. Acting solely under the authority of Duplessis' Padlock Law and after carting off thousands of dollars of equipment they barred entry to the \$125,000 center for one year. They then pounced on the Morris

Winchevsky Jewish School for children, took the names of all the children, but the school escaped the padlock. They also raided the home of Beryl Silverberg, secretary of the UJPO.

A few days later the thought-control police arrested four persons (one a Presbyterian minister) as they were ringing doorbells for signatures on a petition protesting the padlocking of the center. The charge was disturbing the peace.

Given the green light by the Liberal Federal government's purge of the National Film Board, which is being screened by the RCMP and which has already resulted in the tossing out of Film Board chief Ross McLean and many "voluntary" resignations, Duplessis took up the cudgels here too.

At the same time as he sent his police into action against the UJPO, the Quebec Film Board banned the further use of National Film Board pictures on its circuits.

A few days previously the police and ecclesiastical authorities successfully blocked all attempts of the Montreal Peace Council to hold a public meeting for Father Clarence Duffy. Gesu Hall, the property of the Jesuits, had been rented by the Council. But following a hysterical red-baiting campaign in the daily press, and police threats to the hall administrators that they would lock it up, the reservation was cancelled. Capitulating before police pressure and the witch-hunt the officials of the Carpenter's Union also cancelled the Peace Council's reservation of their hall.

These developments are only the latest additions to a long list of criminal assaults on minority groups launched by Duplessis, darling of Quebec industrialists and the Catholic hierarchy. Last month's Labor Challenge reported at length on the police-condoned Knights of Columbus inspired mob

violence on Jehovah's Witnesses at Joliette. Thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses cases are still before the Quebec courts.

Both the Revolutionary Workers Party and the Stalinist Labor Progressive Party are to all intents and purposes illegal organizations under the Quebec Padlock Law. Labor Challenge, The Canadian Tribune, Combat, are barred from newsstands because of police threats to the proprietors. The threat of raids, of being padlocked out of their homes without any of their belongings, hangs over the heads of all members of minority groups in Duplessis' disfavor.

For years now, Duplessis, with the silent support of the federal government, has been carrying on his campaign of violence and intimidation without rousing any powerful protest movement. But today a promising movement of indignation against his fascistic Padlock Law is growing in strength—encompassing several important groups that up until now have not been immediately affected by it and have kept silent.

The Toronto Association of Civil Rights, in a letter of protest addressed to Duplessis and signed by Dr. R. S. K. Seeley, Trinity College provost, Rabbi A. Feinberg, Dr. Malcolm Wallace, B. K. Sandwell and others, has urged repeal of the law. The Quebec section of the CCF has denounced the Padlock Law, the arrest of the petitioners and urges reopening of the UJPO hall. The Ontario Federation of Labor (CIO-CCL) in convention last week added its protest condemning the Padlock Law as "another of the breeding grounds for the rebirth of fascism and war."

These protests must be just the promising beginning of a mass movement to demand the reopening of the UJPO hall and to put the heat on Duplessis to completely remove the hated Padlock Law from the books.

02-01-2

# Frenzied Chorus to Buck Can't Drown Out the Truth

By ROSS DOWSON

02-01-3

Nothing could be more calculated to rouse contempt and heap scorn upon that great body of scientific thought—revolutionary Marxism—than the February 6th issue of the Canadian Tribune and the whole spectacle put on by the Stalinist Labor Progressive Party around the 20th anniversary of Tim Buck's "leadership of Canadian Communism." This would be particularly true if one still mistakenly identifies the LPP and its press in any way with these great principles.

There isn't a columnist in the Tribune of February 6th who does not bend his knee to the "great leader," demonstrate his abject subservience to the "leader." Charles Sims drops his usual "hate the hum" theme to write a panegyric on Buck. John Stewart devotes a full page to a "special interview" with the leader. Trade union expert Salsberg turns his column over to add his voice to the chorus. Organizational Secretary Ryerson's column joins in, with two full pages from Leslie Morris, an editorial, and half the women's page.

This elaborate spectacle of leader worship, humiliation and obeisance before the head of a party, has hitherto been reserved by the priests for supernatural idols, for Jesus, Buddha, Mohamet—and by the editors of the Tribune for the bloody butcherer of Lenin's general staff, Stalin, on his 70th birthday.

"He is in truth the conscience and strength of all that is progressive in the labor movement," scrapes Morris. Trade union expert Salsberg, exclaiming his amazement at Buck's "genius," proclaims he "is beyond question Canada's best trade union leader."

Stewart, in his special interview with Buck, obsequiously asks "What quality, what personal characteristic do you possess that has made you not just a leader of men, but a Communist leader, a leader of the working class?" History has never recorded what truly great leaders of the working class, such as Marx and Lenin would have answered to such a brazen question, asked for publication and reproduced in a paper that calls itself labor. Lenin, we are sure, would have smiled embarrassedly, and irritably shoved it aside if asked by a naive newspaper correspondent, and would have driven a comrade out of the room. But not Buck or the TRIBUNE. Stewart reports "There was scarcely a pause, just a hesitation in the search for the right words."

Little attempt is made to gloss up or sugar coat an obvious effort to identify and equate in the read-

er's mind Timothy Buck with that towering genius Karl Marx. Salsberg heads his column with a quotation from a letter that Engels, Marx's closest co-worker, wrote explaining to a friend the roots of Marx's colossal influence and imprint on the working class movement. With this as his text Salsberg unfolds his hymn to Buck.

The editors ask of Buck and publish his replies to the same series of personal questions that Marx's daughter in a bit of fun once asked her father. In Marx's case the answers were not published until his death to give an insight into the mind of this giant among men.

It is no accident that little is known and less said in the revolutionary movement of the personal life of Lenin. Lenin was great for his ideas and for the embodiment of his ideas in the revolutionary party. But you will search closely and hard for any mention of the party that Buck leads, any tribute to the trade union activists, the rank and file, and their contribution to the 20th anniversary. All, everything, must be subservient to the leader.

The party does creep in, but only to build up the leader, only as an extension of his personality. In the same Stewart interview Buck lays down the law; "there can be no separation or division between my individual personality and the party." In a further comment he lays bare the monolithic regime, the heresy-hunting atmosphere that pervades the top bodies of the LPP—"every member of the political bureau is collectively responsible for the political attitude of every other member," he warns.

But all during the ecstatic celebrations a specter haunted the back portions of the stage, seen by some, ever threatening to drive the idolaters out of the temple in fear. If Buck is celebrating 20 years of leadership—what about the other eight years? Who was leader of the Canadian communists from 1922 up until 1930 when Buck took over?

The general secretary of the party during this blotted-out period was a truly great worker-leader, Jack MacDonald. In 1928 the struggle that Trotsky led against Stalin's perversion of Marxist principles in the Soviet Union broke out in the Communist parties all over the world. Maurice Spector, the leading theoretician of the Canadian party was ruthlessly expelled for his defence of socialist internationalism, then labelled Trotskyism. MacDonald, confused by the struggle, the full implications of which he did not understand at the time, but refusing to

be a rubber stamp to Stalin's bureaucratization of the Canadian party, became inactive and went back to work in the shops. Replaced by a man—Tim Buck—who was willing to be a rubber stamp for the Kremlin he joined Spector several years later to re-found the party that he had founded in 1921—the party of Marxism-Leninism—the Revolutionary Workers Party.

Little has been said by Buck or his idolaters about this period which was the decisive turning point in the transformation of the CP into the party of Buck-Stalin. All of the founding members of the executive who are still alive, except Buck, are bitterly anti-Stalinist. This is difficult for the Smiths and Morris to explain.

But Buck in his interview feels called upon to attempt to fill in this embarrassing gap. He does so by picturing himself as heroically defending the party from a MacDonald whom he slanderously charges held the false Lovestonite theory of American exceptionalism. This is, of course, a lie of the whole cloth.

On top of this it is the rankest hypocrisy, for as false as this theory was, it is as nothing compared to the fundamental revisions of Marxism that Buck has made in the course of his 20 years of "leadership"; the red trade unionism of the Third Period, the class collaborationism of the Popular Front, the support of an imperialist war and the capitalist Liberal party, and the spreading of pacifist illusions through the Ban the Bomb campaign, to name only a few.

The truth is, the LPP, despite the illusions of many of its rank and file, is a new party, a party of revision of Marxism—with a new leadership composed of persons willing to subvert themselves and

the Canadian working class to the Kremlin. For those who understood that the policies insinuated into the Canadian party would never bring socialism to Canada nor defend the Soviet Union from imperialist attack, the demand of subservience to forces of the counter-revolution in Russia was an impossible one. Some broke away, disillusioned and demoralized—the MacDonalds and Sectors fought. Others revolted but crawled back in again to submit—the Buhays and the Salsbergs. Some from the very beginning aligned themselves with the Kremlin—the Stewart Smiths, and first and foremost Tim Buck—not leaders but abject servants.

The cult of leadership so disgustingly displayed around the Tim Buck celebrations is only a reflection of the oligarchic rule that pervades the LPP—a party devoid of any real internal party democracy and critical politics. Its purpose is to ensure that the party rank and file will answer the beck and call of the Kremlin through the all-seeing, all-knowing leader—Tim Buck.

The editors of the Tribune quote Plekhanov, the great Russian Marxist, in an attempt to build up the role of the individual, Tim Buck. But Plekhanov explained the role of mass leaders, not episodic bit players like Buck who has a part in today's drama only due to temporary illusions in some workers' minds that he represents scientific socialism. The role of the genuine mass revolutionary leaders of the Canadian working class has not yet been assigned.

Who are they and what are their names? We know this, that first of all they will have to be Marxists, and leaders in a party of revolutionary Marxism. The nucleus of the mass party of Canadian social-

ism is gathering around the Revolutionary Workers Party, direct lineal descendant of the Communist Party that was formed in 1921. It is as yet small, it has difficulty making its voice heard, but it is armed with the correct program—and as Lenin said, this is decisive.



# LABOR CHALLENGE

A monthly paper bringing the truth about labor's struggle for socialism to the working people of Canada.

Published by

THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY,  
87 KING ST. W., ROOM 5, TORONTO 1, ONT.—ELGIN 9613

Editor, ROSS DOWSON

Subscription: 50 cents for one year subscription (12 issues)

The policy of Labor Challenge is reflected in its editorials. Signed articles and features express the ideas of our contributors and do not necessarily represent the policies or opinion of Labor Challenge.

Set up and printed by Merchants Press, 323 King St. W., Toronto.  
Authorized as Second Class mail by The Post Office Dept., Ottawa

Vol. VI, No. 2, (79) Toronto, Ontario

February, 1950

Socialism cannot be immediately triumphant there (Russia) but can . . . make our revolution a *prelude* to the world socialist revolution, a *step* towards it. . . The Russian proletariat cannot by its own forces *victoriously complete* the socialist revolution. . . It can facilitate matters for the entrance into a decisive battle on the part of its *main* and most reliable ally, the *European* and American socialist proletariat.

Lenin 1917



02-01-4

## Labor Must Win

The outcome of the British general election, to be held on February 23, is of great importance to the workers, not only of Britain, but of the entire world.

We are well aware, of course, that the leadership of the British Labor Party during its five years of office has acted as the agency of capitalism. The wage freeze together with the irresistibly mounting cost of living is grinding down the workers' standards. Speed-up and incentive pay is being openly preached by the party bureaucrats in their treacherous efforts to wring salvation for capitalism out of the bodies of the workers. The monstrous military budget and the vast sums paid out to the former owners of the nationalized industries as interest hang like giant millstones around the neck of the economy. The social services are directly threatened by the crisis, which will break out in ever more catastrophic convulsions.

Despite this treachery of the Labor Government, however, its defeat would be a body blow to the world working class and a triumph for world reaction.

The revolutionary socialist wing of the Labor Party, in its publication, the *Socialist Outlook*, lucidly sums up the election issues as follows:

"The capitalists are of course thankful that this Government has shown such an incredible leniency towards them . . . these undoubted concessions to Tory pressure, while they confuse, bewilder and disappoint the working class, do not satisfy the capitalists. For them it is all or nothing. They want a Government which is directly under their own control—instead of one which, in the final analysis, is answerable to the organized workers.

"If the Tories win it will be a defeat for the international working class. Reaction throughout the world will be encouraged. Our own movement will be forced into a rearguard action to defend itself from the capitalist attacks which will inevitably follow. . . .

"If Labor is returned to office, then the valuable experience of the last four years will be continued. The fallacy of trying to make capitalism work will become more and more apparent to the organized workers. The demand for a more socialist policy will be irresistible.

"It is necessary to rout the Tories at the general election. That is our first and most urgent task."

The class-conscious workers of England who are aware of what is at stake will rally behind the Labor Party, in spite of its record, just as the capitalists rally behind the Tories.

## It All Adds Up

Ever since the outbreak of the cold war practically all the energies of the trade union leadership, far from being directed against the profit bloated monopolists who are putting the heat on in the shops and crippling negotiations and organizational drives through restrictive laws and boss dominated labor boards, have instead been directed into a war against "communism."

The CIO-CCL leadership, which once reflected the militancy of the workers in heavy industry and the crusade for industrial organization, has here found common cause with the heavy-paunched, old line, craft conscious, leadership of the AFL-TLC.

Matthew Woll, vice president of the AFL and an old line bureaucrat, is so warmed up by this new unity that he even told a Toronto meeting that "At no time was there any serious difference between the two national bodies over the question of trade union organization and structure."

The results of this "anti communist" crusade are easy to add up; the curtailment of internal democracy through a witch hunt atmosphere, and unbridled raiding, with the inevitable undermining of conditions in the shop and bargaining strength in negotiations.

Its direction is more and more open and unashamed collaboration of the union bureaucracy with the most reactionary forces in the country.

Workers in New York last month were greeted with the sight of their "leaders," including James Carey, national secretary of the CIO and AFL Vice President Matthew Woll, sitting cheek by jowl with a collection of the most vicious labor haters in America, amongst others Senator Mundt of the Mundt police-state Bill, G. N. Craig, head of the strike-breaking American Legion, and leading spokesmen of the Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.

The occasion was a Legion-sponsored Hearst-promoted All-American Conference to Combat Communism. This motley crew of union officials and labor haters, fascists and anti-fascists, anti-Semites and Jews had one thing in common—a mutual desire to deny civil rights to anyone they choose to call a "communist."

It was no accident that these labor leaders were invited, although six "liberal" organizations had been denied seating. The professional witch hunters represent only a small minority. They need a labor cover to get anywhere. And that is what the Careys supply.

The redbaiters are helping to consolidate the very forces that will form the spearhead of any serious fascist movement that will develop in America—under the heading of "combatting communism."



# TROTSKYISM

## AROUND THE GLOBE



The present crisis in human culture is the crisis in the proletarian leadership. The advanced workers, united in the Fourth International, show their class the way out of the crisis. They offer a program based on international experience in the struggle of the proletariat and of all the oppressed of the world for liberation. They offer a spotless banner. Workers—men and women—of all countries, place yourselves under the banner of the Fourth International. It is the banner of your approaching victory.

—Leon Trotsky

### CEYLON

In the recently held municipal elections at Colombo (pop. 355,000 and capital of Ceylon), the Trotskyists gained a total of five seats. The Ceylonese Communist Party elected four members.

The Bolshevik Samasamaja Party, official section of the Fourth International in Ceylon, increased its representation from one to three Councillors; D. Souza, V. Goonewardena and B. Soysa. Another candidate was defeated by only five votes.

The Lanka Samasamaja Party, a dissident Trotskyist organization retained the seats of Dr. N. M. Perera and Abou-bakker.

An independent reform candidate was elected by the Council as Mayor and a Trotskyist was elected as deputy Mayor. Three out of the four Stalinist Councillors voted for the Trotskyist.

All three, including the prominent CP leader Pieter Keuneman, were immediately suspended by the Communist Party's Central Committee. Immediately Keuneman and his two fellow Councillors publicly recanted. They signed a confession that "we completely endorse the Political Committee's censure and we consider that our action is thoroughly opportunist and detrimental to the working class and the party."

### GERMANY

The January 1950 issue of *Unser Weg*, the press of the German Trotskyists, carried an interesting article on a report that appeared in the *Leipziger Volks-Zeitung*, official organ of the S.E.D., the Stalinist party in Eastern Germany. Under the title "Political Confusionist or an Agent of the Class Enemy" the report deals with the "case of Michaelis" as a typical example of how to unmask Trotskyism. It appears that last fall a Willi Michaelis, who worked in the paper's printshop, attended a branch meeting of the party where he made a lengthy political statement.

According to the *Volks-Zeitung* "He declared that the path our party was following was dictatorial and that we follow a Russian course which was erroneous. He proposed

an 'international orientation' which according to him would lead to socialism."

The branch organizer, frightened, decided to immediately call an extraordinary gathering of all party members in order to handle the case of this worker.

"From the very beginning of this meeting," says the *Volks-Zeitung*, "Michaelis condemned the politics of the National Front, the setting up of 'the commercial organization' (legalization of the black market) and piece work . . . he propagated his opinion on the outstanding role that Judas Trotsky played in the October Revolution and his merits in the ideological preparation of the masses for the world revolution . . . he characterized the formation of the National Front as a sort of unity of action with the class enemy and the fascists."

According to the journal, Michaelis "was led astray to such a degree" that he returned "even stronger in his opinions" after a re-indoctrination at a party cadre school where they had sent him in order "to correct his errors." The conclusion of the affair was obvious for the Stalinists. They decided that they could no longer discuss with "a type like Michaelis." "The only possible reply: expulsion!" And they immediately put through a resolution demanding that "an end be put forever to his work of diversion." Unfortunately we know what the words "forever" mean in the Stalinist section of the globe.

We can be sure however that this case is not unique. Despite all the Stalinist terror, the conscience of the German working class in East Germany finds expression and will continue to do so in the ranks of the best militants. And Trotskyism which today haunts the Kremlin bureaucrats and their miserable lackeys lives and will continue to live and grow thanks to this inevitable awakening of consciousness and the worker's struggle.

### BOLIVIA

When the Bolivian tin miners struck last May for better living conditions, as we have previously reported, the semi-feudal ruling class massacred hundreds of them. In addition it has sent hundreds of other militants to rot in the prisons and concentration camps, such as the one in Laja, without any means of legal defense. Among them are Melquiades Luna and other working class victims belonging to the POR (Trotskyists).

Guillermo Lora, a leader of the Miners Federation, a member of the Chamber of Deputies, and a Trotskyist, was forced into exile and then his parliamentary immunity was removed so that he

could be tried for the "crime" of leading the miners in struggle.

Now Lora has written a letter to the Bolivian ambassador in Uruguay, where he is exiled, asking for permission to return to Bolivia to defend himself and the imprisoned miners.

We don't know what the reply was or will be, if any. But we doubt that the ruling oligarchy will welcome a defense which it knows would try to bring into the open the whole truth about the government's strikebreaking repression of the workers and its subservience to the native mining lords and U.S. imperialist interests who dominate the country.

### FRANCE

From January 14 to 17 the Parti Communiste Internationaliste, French section of the Fourth International, held its 6th National Congress.

The congress received fairly wide attention from the press and radio. The congress demonstrated that the party has surmounted the crisis that it had undergone almost two years ago when the former leadership broke away in order to participate in the RDR (centrist) adventure; that it has consolidated and reinforced itself; that the path that it had marked out at the 5th Congress has been verified and proved; and that in the case of the crisis of Stalinism the PCI was shown to be a force capable of making a powerful contribution to the regroupment of a strong revolutionary vanguard.

The Congress heard a report on the activities of the 4th International since the 2nd World Congress. Considerable time was devoted to a theoretical analysis of developments in the Soviet buffer zones. The defence of Yugoslavia constituted a particular point on the order of the day. The Congress issued a statement to the Yugoslav working class. The statement solidarized the party with the Yugoslav CP in its struggle for the truth against calumny, in the struggle for independence with regard to Wall Street and the Kremlin, in its struggle for autonomy of the working class movement with regard to the old leaderships of betrayal. The resolution, which promised to intensify the party's activities within the French working class for the defence of the Yugoslav revolution, called upon French trade unionists to find out the truth despite their leader's efforts by sending delegations to Yugoslavia. The party urged young workers to form labor brigades to demonstrate international working class support, at the same time promising to step up its struggle for the world socialist revolution which alone can guarantee the defence of the Yugoslav revolution.

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# LABOR CHALLENGE

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03-01-1

UN Exposed

## 'New Approach' in Drive Toward H-Bomb War

By PAUL KANE

With the mass feeling of horror and revulsion that followed Truman's go-ahead signal to produce the H Bomb, and the revelations by world famous scientists of what is in store for humanity from an H Bomb war, came two new moves on the war-front: 1) Wall Street and its junior partners are launching a new orgy of peace maneuvers, calls for new conferences between the big powers, special UN sessions, etc. 2) the mad stock piling of instruments of annihilation is being frantically stepped up.

The St. Laurent government, which finds it impossible to meet any of the needs of the unemployed, hiked military expenditures up from last year's \$383 million to a possible over all commitment of \$607 million (providing \$144 million does not affect actual cash outlay for the next fiscal year.) The British capitalist class through the Attlee government jumped its military budget, which is already staggering the bankrupt economy, by £20 million to make the total £780 million.

Side by side with the U.S. State Department's get tough with Russia line, as expressed by Acheson and Johnson, has come the call by leading Democrats for a "new approach" stressing disarmament, another peace conference with the Kremlin, another try at international atomic energy control through the United Nations. Churchill has joined the chorus for a new conference of big power representatives with McNaughton, Canadian UN Atomic Energy Com-

missioner, bidding for a new UN try.

The "new approach" of course does not mark any change of heart on the part of the imperialists. On the contrary it marks a recognition of the revulsion of the masses to their war plans and that this obstacle, the chief obstacle to their planned assault on the Soviet Union, must be considerably more softened up.

The Atlantic Pact signees are not frightened that the Soviet Union will drop an H Bomb or commence an A Bomb war on the West. They are afraid of the aroused mass anti-war sentiments. This is revealed by the hysterical attack made by David Lillenthal, former chairman of the atomic energy commission, on prominent U.S. scientists for the effect that their revelations on the H Bomb have had.

Voicing the fears of the war mongers he cried; "Does this wallowing on the hazards of atomic warfare help to keep this country alert, our military strength from lagging? I doubt it very much."

The campaign to brand the Soviet Union as the aggressor and enemy of world peace and to paint the West's war preparations as purely defensive, to proclaim Wall Street to be a real lover of peace and for disarmament but for the stumbling block, the USSR, has to be tremendously stepped up.

Today the chief spokesmen of the Wall Street alliance make no bones about it. This is the main function of the Wall Street dominated UN. When it is not openly helping to throttle the struggles of

the colonial peoples, as it did in its intervention against the Indonesian freedom fighters on behalf of the blood soaked Dutch imperialists, the United Nations is to function as an instrument to marshal world public opinion against the USSR.

Senator McMahon, chairman of the Congressional Atomic Commission, should have effectively destroyed any illusions that the UN is an instrument for peace with his speech in the Senate last week demanding a meeting of the UN Assembly at Moscow. "If the Soviet rulers," he taunted, "dare not entertain the General Assembly all the free world will know the meaning of such a refusal. Testimony so eloquent may not be lost even on the Russian people."

Canada's General McNaughton added his praise of this particular function of the UN, an effective propaganda weapon against the USSR, with the comment "The Soviets are not unconcerned at the force of world opinion developed within the forums of the UN and show some discomfort at their complete isolation."

No doubt the Baruch Plan which would give American imperialism, through its domination of the UN, world control and monopoly over all production of atomic energy raw material and sources will be dusted off again for the new UN tries. And naturally the USSR will not and cannot agree to such a proposition which would mean its disarmament and the turning over of its atomic energy industry to a UN commission controlled by the U.S. which would continue to be armed to the teeth.

The Kremlin's own disarmament scheme calling for immediate destruction of all atomic weapons, like all disarmament proposals in the past, will be confronted with the stalemating argument of Wall Street's spokesmen; "What guarantee is there that the parties to the agreement will act in good faith."

And so the wrangling will go on, the Soviet Union being forced again and again to utilize its veto and Wall Street continuing its job of rallying public opinion against the USSR so it can plunge the world into war.

So long as the people can be deluded into putting their hopes for peace in UN, an agency controlled by the imperialists and designed to give legal cover for a new war—war is inevitable. So long as the people put any trust in the fiction that the possession of arms is the cause of war and not just a result of a system that breeds war, so long as they can be lulled by pacifist illusions—war is inevitable. So long as they put their hopes for peace in the present rulers, from St. Laurent and Truman to Stalin—war is inevitable.

But once they understand that capitalism offers no hope they will take upon themselves the task of solving the problem of war by their own means. The desire of the masses for peace can only be effectively mobilized around the demand that, the CCF MP's refuse to vote the military budget and such demands as take the war-making powers out of the hands of parliament. Let the people vote on war or peace.

# Outlook for Left

## With Program, Organization It Can Play Historic Role

03-01-2

The Revolutionary Workers Party and its press, ever since its first issue of four years ago, has given critical support to the CCF. The CCF is the mass political party of the Canadian working class representing a fundamental break from the capitalist parties and a first step in the political development of the Canadian workers towards socialism.

We have given the CCF our support and defended it against its capitalist and Stalinist enemies despite its political program and despite its leadership. Its program of patch-work reform of this war and depression breeding capitalist system is false to the core. Its leadership, particularly in the last few years as the post-war crisis has been unfolding, has revealed itself to an increasing number of workers both within and without the CCF as not desirous and incapable of even defending their day to day interests let alone carve out new roads of advance.

Out of this experience; out of the leadership's ditching of the Regina Manifesto to support World War II and their demonstrative underwriting of World War III, out of Coldwell's curbing the advance of the CCF in the 1949 elections through his underhanded endorsement of the Liberals as a "lesser evil" than the Tories, out of an analysis of the Australian and New Zealand defeats and the failure to establish socialism during long Labor Party tenure of office—out of all this, an important opposition has arisen in the CCF.

We hailed this opposition from its birth. We have always desired to establish formal organizational relations with the CCF and its Left by affiliating to it. But this constitutional provision has long since been dumped by the top leadership who fear and hate the most honest and intransigent socialist activists just as they fear any mass trade union influx into the CCF and the rise of a critical opposition to their policy within the party.

The successful development of this opposition is vital to the development of the CCF. *Its further unfolding and clarification may well determine in the next period whether the CCF is to continue to have a progressive significance for the Canadian workers or to sink further into the parliamentary morass of liberal-reformism—and become a block in their path.*

The importance that this Left has for the future of the Canadian labor movement compels us to not gloss over its great weaknesses, but as its comrade-in-arms to clearly and boldly make our criticisms.

The B.C. CCF is in a sorry condition to meet the Coldwell-McInnis gang at the Penticton convention. It is without any program and therefore without any cohesion or any perspective. It comes to the convention not as an organized force, after hammering-out its ideas in meetings and bulletins since the last convention.

The majority of the leading spokesmen of the Left have reacted in violent opposition to the "Liberal in a hurry" Coldwell policy. They have taken their stand against col-

laborationist compromise with capitalism, and for a socialist policy. The great weakness of the Left has proven to be its inability to translate its principled stand into a program. *This is revealed in the sterile discussion that the Left has promoted on whether the first CCF government should compensate or not compensate the expropriated capitalists. There has been no discussion on war and how to fight it, the coming depression, etc. Well can the cynical David Lewis lash them for their confusionism, their "Vague talk about 'revolutionary action' which is left undefined."*

The clarification of the Left, its purification of all sectarian and opportunistic tendencies, is a primary condition for its further progressive development. It must purge itself of any tendency to turn its back on the immediate day-to-day problems of the masses in order to "preserve" its socialist principles. Far from turning its back on the trade unions in fear of its socialist "purity," the CCF under the pressure of the Left must be transformed from a party endorsed by labor into a party based on the trade unions.

The lack of understanding on the part of the Left of the dynamics of the class struggle and the role of consciousness in the historical process is a grave danger to its development. In this crisis-racked world when the fate of society is in the balance, the left has no future if it stands above the storm with little forums, discussing the merits of indemnification or confiscation, secure in a belief in the "inevitability" of the socialization of the mass.

One of our B.C. CCF correspondents believes that the fatalistic attitude of the Left will cost it dearly in posts and policy influence despite its widespread support in the province. Quite possible. But it is still by no means too late for the convention to be a very valuable experience for the Left.

It has the truth on its side, certainly more truth than the McInnis-Winch gang. It has great reserves of strength in the CCF that can be called to its support. By choosing the grounds to fight on, by taking a clear cut stand on the most vital questions, the convention can mark a further stage in differentiation between Left and Right.

The convention will certainly result in a further clarification for the best elements in the Left. They will commence its organization with a program of socialist action—and will spread its influence throughout the land.



# LABOR CHALLENGE

(80) March 1950

03-01-3



The liquidation of the private ownership of the means of production is the central historical task of our epoch and will guarantee the birth of a new, more harmonious society. The act of birth, daily observation teaches us, is never a "gradual" process but a biological revolution.

—Leon Trotsky.

## Sliding Scale of Hours

One of the "little droplets" of unemployed that government officials have referred to is the one thousand workers and their families on the nine mile, wind swept, barren, Bell Island, just off the coast of Canada's 10th province, Newfoundland. These thousand unemployed are half the working force at the four Dosco-owned mines. Two have been shut down because of loss of the British market.

There is no other source of employment on Dosco's Bell Island. Rather than see half the membership try to eke out a miserable living on the pitiful Unemployment Insurance dole the United Steelworkers local there has decided to ask the company to share shifts.

The workers are proposing to share the work. Where one works 48 hours, two would work 24 hours and both would take 24 hours pay home to their family. This arrangement would obviously cost nothing to anyone but the workers themselves. However, the heavily government subsidized Dosco bosses have rejected the Steel local's proposal because of alleged high administrative costs.

We, too, believe that such a proposal should be rejected—not, of course, for any of the reasons that the profit-mad Dosco bosses put forth—but for reasons we are sure every intelligent trade unionist cannot help but agree with.

This idea of the shorter-work week to meet unemployment has now become official policy of the United Steelworkers. All locals have been advised, irrespective of agreements on hours of work, to press for reduction of hours before layoffs are made. Good! But there is just one small thing missing. Nothing is said about rates of pay.

Prior to the rise of militant unionism it was commonplace in this country to work 55 to 65 hours a week. Labor, through long and costly struggles, has forced the work week down to 40 to 50 hours... but at the same take-home pay or more.

The shorter work-week, shift sharing, is the most powerful answer labor has to unemployment. But if it is not to be a slavey's answer, a "solution" that will cut living standards to pogy levels, it must contain the demand for the same take-home pay. We do not believe that Canadian-organized labor will accept a "solution" that throws the entire burden of a capitalist spawned crisis on its own shoulders. out of its own already too thin pocketbook.

Labor is powerful enough in this country to institute a sliding scale of hours clause in every contract—no layoffs, a shorter work week at the same take-home pay, the right to work for everyone. This must be the slogan of the hour.

## Secret of Lewis' Power

John L. Lewis, leader of the United Mineworkers who have just marked up a smashing victory for the North American and world labor movement, has long been singled out by the bosses and their mouthpieces for the most bitter and venomous attacks.

Their attitude towards Murray, Green, Percy Bengough and A. R. Mosher, stands out in glaring contrast to their attitude towards Lewis. The former are handled with sweet reasonableness, as responsible and intelligent leaders of labor—yes, even fêted as "labor statesmen." But for Lewis—there is no epithet in the dictionary that they do not fling—there is no limit, no bound to their hatred and invective.

This in itself, the reaction of the class enemy, is proof that there is a fundamental difference between Lewis and the top trade union bureaucracy—a difference which correctly rouses a feeling of solidarity with Lewis on the part of all militants.

What is the cause of this implacable hostility to Lewis? From their class point of view there are many facets to Lewis' character and role in American labor that are worthy of their commendation—such as his long standing and very vocal opposition to political action by labor and his bureaucratic domination of the mineworker's union. But these are no saving graces in their eyes. His crime can not be washed away by these weaknesses.

They hate him for his strong points. They hate him as an aggressive, fearless and masterful handler of strike situations. In this sphere Lewis stands head and shoulders above all other top union leaders. They hate him for his strong understanding of the need of uniting the massive strength of labor in defence of its rights. Remember his powerful defence of the harassed French miners last year when all other labor leaders capitulated to the red bogey! How bitterly they must view the proposal he has just made to the CIO that they negotiate "a mutual aid pact for common defense" against the idea "prevalent in industrial and financial circles that our great industrial unions should be attacked and crippled one by one."

Above all they hate him for his basic understanding of the dynamic and all-conquering power of the working class. They hate him because they know Lewis knows and utilizes the knowledge, that there is no substitute for fighting mass action to win gains for labor. Consciousness of the strength of the miners, this is the key to Lewis' strength and to Lewis' exceptional stature in American labor.

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## THE REAL MARX

By ROSS DOWSON

03-01-4

The B.C. CCF News Literature Department and the Education Committee in recent months have been recommending the reading of several of the basic Marxist classics such as the *Communist Manifesto*, *Wage-Labor and Capital*, *Value, Price and Profit*. In so doing they are performing a considerable service to the membership of the CCF.

Without an understanding of Marx and Engels there can be no serious thought on any important political question—without a grasp of historical materialism, the labor theory of value, the laws of the class struggle, one can say without any hesitation that the multitudinous problems confronting the working class are a book sealed with seven seals.

However in a further glance over the list of books handled by the literature committee one cannot help but be struck by those whose works are recommended to be read along with those of Marx and Engels, writers on current political problems that confront us.

Bertrand Russell's moss-backed ponderings on the nature of man are recommended along with writings of the indefatigable compiler, G. D. H. Cole, theoretician of the Fabians about whose socialism Engels said: "Fear of the revolution is their fundamental principle . . . This socialism of theirs is then represented as an extreme but inevitable consequence of bourgeois Liberalism, and hence follow their tactics of not decisively opposing the Liberals as adversaries but of pushing them on towards socialist conclusions and therefore of intriguing with them, of permeating Liberalism with socialism. . . . Hence, too, their fanatical hatred of Marx and all of us—because of the class struggle."

The *Manifesto* and the popularizations of political economy were written over one hundred years ago. This past century of unprecedented development of productive forces and vast social struggles requires us admittedly to make corrections and additions. Revolutionary thought has nothing in common with idol worship. But these additions and corrections to Marx' and Engels' writing, this bringing of them up to date, can only be done by those who proceed in accord with the method lodged in the foundation of the *Manifesto*.

The Education Committee calls these works of Marx and Engels the foundations of socialist thought. Having the foundation we must continue to build. But the Russells and Coles do not build on this foundation. They are open opponents of anything and every-

thing contained in the works of Marx. Foremost of those who did build on the foundation, who corrected and added in the light of new experiences, who applied the Marxist method to the new questions of our epoch, the problems of the colonial struggle, imperialism, fascism, Stalinism — were Lenin and Trotsky.

It appears to us to be neither a tactic nor an accident that the works of these masters of Marxism are missing from the shelves of the CCF literature department and their places filled by Russell and Cole.

George Weaver, who sets himself up as a vendor of Marxist ideas in the CCF, has whisked Karl Marx out into his column on occasion. His Marx is not just 100 years old, no such Marx ever existed except in Weaver's imagination. Weaver's Marx is a Marx without a soul — a Marxism with its revolutionary side distorted, obliterated and omitted.

Weaver's Marx has nothing in common with the Marx who ecstatically hailed the Paris Commune, the precursor of the Russian Revolution:

"What elasticity, what historical initiative, what a capacity for sacrifice in these Parisians . . . History has no like example of a like greatness . . . They should have marched at once on Versailles . . . the present rising in Paris—even if it be crushed by the wolves, swine and vile curs of the old society — is the most glorious deed of our party since the June insurrection."

His Engels has nothing in common with the real Engels, nicknamed The General by his friends for his intense interest in the techniques of warfare and who fought on the barricades of 1848. Weaver's Marx and Engels are mere armchair philosophers who stand out in contrast with other philosophers only in that they explain the world in a more intelligent way—but do not change it. The real Marx and Engels were men of action—revolutionary action.

The *Manifesto*—which closes incidentally with the clarion statement: Communists openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions—is indeed a fitting introduction to further writings of Marx and Engels such as their *Correspondence*, *Civil War in France*, etc.

Above all it is necessary for workers who want to know the answers, the Marxist answers, to the new problems of our epoch, to study the writings of Lenin and Trotsky.

For the Marxist teachings on the state, parliamentarism, etc., read

Lenin's *State and Revolution*. For the analysis of the fundamental character of this epoch and the tasks of the workers read *Imperialism* by Lenin. For Marxism in the light of the experiences in the Soviet Union, what the Soviet Union is and where it is going, read *Revolution Betrayed* by Trotsky. What does a socialist program look like, one that is applied to the day-to-day problems of the workers but makes no compromise with capitalism? For the answer read Trotsky's *Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the 4th International*.

Write for a book list to Labor Challenge Publishing Association, 87 King Street West, Room 5, Toronto 1, Ont.

# LABOR CHALLENGE

Official Organ, Revolutionary Workers Party



Canadian Section, Fourth International

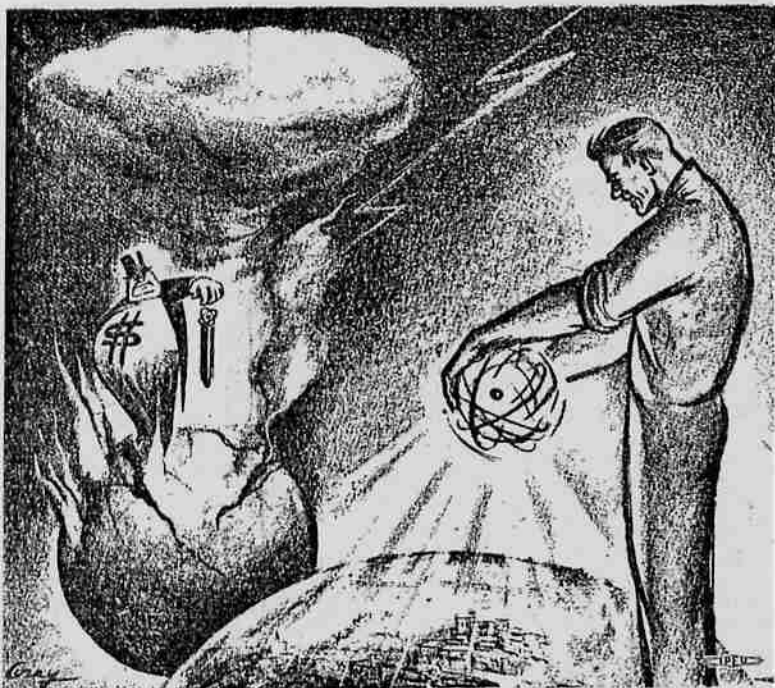
Vol. VI, No. 4 (81)

TORONTO, APRIL, 1950

PRICE: 5 Cents

## IGNORES NEEDS OF MASSES ABBOTT FEEDS WAR MACHINE

04-01-1



## Coldwell Line Rebuffed By BC CCF Convention

The 17th annual convention of the B.C. CCF, held in Penticton April 7, 8, 9, went on record by a vote of 23 to 22, against "any further expenditure on arms" by Canada, and calling for cessation of all war production within the country. It called upon federal MP's from B.C. to voice their opposition to arms.

Results of the balloting. Vice-pres-

delegate elected to the provincial executive was Rod Young, who just managed to slip in as second vice-president by one vote, (56 to 55). Colin Cameron, chief spokesman of the left, was defeated three

## HOUSING, WELFARE BY-PASSED IN BUDGET

While corporations continue to rake in the juiciest profits in history, and dividend payments hit an all time high of \$427,872,307 at the end of '49, the cost of living has soared to record levels, unemployment grows and the lot of the Canadian masses continued to decline.

An unparalleled hike in rents, as a result of the government's brutal raising of the rent ceilings, has combined with a sharp rise in food prices to push up living costs by 2.1 points to a new record of 163.7. In terms of 1939 money, this means that the dollar is now worth about 61 cents.

The mass of jobless has risen, according to latest figures, to a total of 410,000 registered with the National Employment Service on March 16, including 35,000 new applicants for emergency handouts under the extended unemployment insurance coverage. Labor leaders, however, have estimated the unemployed at up to half a million, or 10 per cent. of the labor force. STARVATION IN N.B.

What's more, the labor market continues to swell. Eighty-two thousand school graduates will be added by June. And first official forecasts for 1950 show that capital investment, a primary factor in the level of business, will drop by 11 per cent.

Spotlighting the degrading conditions under which masses of the population are forced to exist in this period of "prosperity" were the lurid reports recently of hunger riots by residents of the village of East Allardville, New Brunswick. The rioters forced out of work by the halt in logging operations ordered by the lumber bosses, had subsisted for weeks on tiny rations of potatoes.

"We don't intend to see our wives and children starve to death," declared one of the participants. "What does the government want us to do, just sit down quietly and die?"

The 1950 budget presented by Abbot on March 28 gives the answer to this question. Unlike the election-year 1949 budget it makes not even a feeble gesture towards

the masses who produce the wealth which it apportions. While shelling out \$400,000,000 to the bosses as interest on the national debt, chiefly incurred in the last slaughter, it generously allows \$425,000,000 as the 1950 allotment towards the next one.

Its intricate readjustments to ease the taxes of the bosses are ample proof that the hundreds of thousands of dollars they poured into the Liberal election chest were a sound investment.

Grants to the bosses include repeal of Section 73 of the Income Tax Act which "requires a corporation tax on the income received by a trustee for holders of oil royalties," and new depreciation rulings placing huge new chunks of profit beyond the pale of taxable income.

By such measures Abbot has further remedied the "severe application of our present law" which he complained last year had driven "many corporations... into a great variety of extremely complicated and cumbersome devices to secure legal avoidance of the excessive tax burden to which they are potentially liable." What touching concern for the bloated corporations!

This budget is in keeping with the cynical attitude of the boss government toward the masses of Canada, reflected also in its contemptuous ignoring of its much-ballyhooed electioneering promises of housing and social security. Leslie A. Mutch, parliamentary secretary to Veterans Minister Gregg and Liberal MP for South Winnipeg, who followed the party line of social security promises at election time, revealed the real line in his address to the Toronto Liberal Businessman's Club in which he blasted it as "the antidote to terror, the excuse of the lazy, the narcotic for the weak-willed and the refuge of the coward... social security is indefinable, immeasurable and dishonest."

As for housing, Major-General H. Young of the government's Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, which is at present building itself a new \$1,000,000 headquarters, tossed that hot potato into the garbage piles with the dumped celery and other "surplus" commodities. "Although it isn't the nicest thing to say at this time," he declared, "a recession would certainly destroy the need for housing."

More for the rich, less for the poor. That's boss Canada, 1950.



# May Day, 1950 and Labor's Task

## Manifesto of the RWP

May Day, the day of labor, was forged 64 years ago in the heroic struggles of the workers on this continent for the 8-hour day. Baptised with the blood of Chicago's Haymarket martyrs, Parsons, Spies and their comrades, it has been re-consecrated with the sacrifices of those who have laid down their lives in the turbulent class struggles that have continued to sweep the world in ever widening scope.

May Day is a day dedicated to the world wide solidarity of the working class. It is a day when the toilers at the machines, loggers, miners, seamen, the millions who are being thrust out of work, the freedom fighters in the colonies, stop, and with one united voice, shout their defiance to the capitalist rulers of this world and boldly and courageously proclaim their aims—the emancipation of humanity from exploitation and atomic destruction.

WHICH IS IT TO BE? A world freed from the want and hunger that plagues the masses of Europe, Africa and Asia—a world freed from the insecurity and fear that haunts America—a world of peace and plenty, where man, the noblest creation of nature, can draw himself up to his full stature—OR—an H Bomb blasted, scorched, cityless planet where the most bestial struggle for survival will dominate.

It is five years since the atomic slaughter of the people of Nagasaki and Hiroshima which was to usher in the era of the Four Freedoms, five years of unprecedented scientific research and discoveries. But atomic energy in the hands of the present rulers of society holds no freedom and leisure—only H Bombs; only the promise of the head of Canada's Chalk River atomic project that the next generation "almost certainly will be involved in a war in which atomic bombs are used."

The issue is posed—SOCIALISM OR BARBARISM.

Workers of Canada! Reject the treacherous policies of the CCF leadership who condone the Atlantic Pact alliance for war, who vote supply for the fiendish devices being accumulated for the holocaust, and who direct your anti-war aspirations into the perfidious capitalist dominated thieves kitchen that is the United Nations. Reject the false pacifist creed propagated by the Stalinist Labor Progressive Party that weapons alone cause war and that their ban, and not the ban of the system that breeds war, is the path that must be taken.

Rally to, unite around an anti-capitalist program, a program that is directed against the system that propagates war, and its Bay Street-Wall Street rulers. *Take the war-making powers out of the hands of parliament! Demand that the people alone have the right to vote on and decide the question of war or peace! Demand that the CCF M.P.'s refuse to vote one cent to the gigantic military budget. All military appropriations to low-rent subsidized housing and other essential needs of the people!*

Side by side with External Affairs Minister Pearson's "we wish the government of Boa Dai every success" in its crushing of the Indo-Chinese who are throwing off the yoke of French imperialism; side by side with Wall Street's overtures to Franco, its grooming of fascist riff-raff in France

and Germany, and its making and breaking of governments in terrorized Greece, goes the assault on civil rights at home.

The terrorization of a religious sect at Shawinigan Falls, Duplessis' padlocking of the UJPO Hall in Montreal, the mob assault on LPP offices in Windsor two years ago, are not merely incidental products of prejudice and ignorance. They have deep social roots—they are an integral part of Big Business' campaign to clamp a dictatorial rule on America. This campaign which commenced with Ottawa's spy scare and has resulted in a witch-hunt in government services, border bans, anti-labor laws, and now the threat of re-imposition of the notorious Section '98, is designed by Bay Street to smash all opposition to its rule.

This drive is first directed against minority groupings, those least able to defend themselves. But it is aimed at all. *Unite against the police-state drive! For complete freedom of speech, press and assembly! Smash the Padlock Law. Repeal the anti-labor laws! Halt the re-imposition of Section 98!*

May Day is a day of labor unity. But today there is no unity. The CCF leaders stand solidly behind Wall Street's preparations to assault the Soviet Union, open it up for capitalist exploitation and replace Stalin's dictatorial rule with its own. The LPP leaders stand solidly behind the nationalistic Kremlin oligarchy that undermines the conquests of the October Revolution from within; through its shady deals and alliances with reaction alienates the sympathy of the world working class from defence of what remains of the Russia of Lenin and Trotsky; and threatens war on tiny Yugoslavia.

The trade union leadership, the Moshers, the Bengoughs, the Greens and Murrys, far from helping to knit the unity of labor against capital, are transmitting the boss-inspired witch hunt right into the house of labor. They are bureaucratically expelling entire unions, they are promoting raids and are guilty of the foulest class collaboration.

They have no program for the millions of workers whom they "lead." They have no answer to the increasing threat of unemployment that already encompasses half a million Canadians. But there is a program. *Fight for the 30-hour week with no cut in take-home pay! A sliding scale of hours in every union contract to guarantee everyone the right to work! For unemployment insurance for the full period of unemployment and at trade union rates of pay!*

The working people are the only hope for mankind. United they can easily brush aside the small clique of bankers and bosses who are now driving mankind to destruction. But they must purge their ranks of alien class ideas and drive the misleaders from their places of influence.

The Revolutionary Workers Party, the Canadian section of the world-wide Fourth International, has the program that can forge the necessary leadership and bring about the unity of the masses.

Great forces are at work in society preparing the foundations for this unity. The approaching depression is setting off new waves of critical thinking in the ranks of the workers and preparing new grounds for militant struggles. The influence of Stalinism which has proven so costly in defeats is being shaken with crisis upon crisis. Powerful leftist tendencies are rising in opposition to the "Liberals in a hurry" Coldwell leadership of the CCF.

Unite around the program of the RWP. Join with us in advancing this program so that May Day 1950 can mark a new stage in the struggle for a socialist Canada!

*Long Live May Day! Long Live International Labor Solidarity! Long Live the Fourth International!*

# FORD PENSION SETTLEMENT OPPOSED BY LARGE MINORITY

By JEAN LaPLANTE

Within a few hours of strike-deadline the negotiating committee of Local 200 UAW, primed by International President Walter Reuther and backed by Canadian Director George Burt and local President Roy England, won membership acceptance of its recommended new agreement with the Canadian bosses of the vast Ford Empire.

The agreement was signed while the company brazenly flaunted an annual report which boasted record production, sales and profits — this year's net profit wrung out of Ford workers reached the incredible height of \$17,256,762 as against last year's \$7,969,534. The new agreement which had to be wrung from the company under threat of strike includes a pension plan of \$55 a month at 65 years after 30 years of service—only a slight modification of the company's first counter-offer to the

union's original demand for a \$100 a month pension and the Ontario labor conciliation board's recommendation which the union had previously rejected out of hand.

Besides granting several fringe demands the company assumed the entire cost of group life and disability insurance. This has been estimated to be worth about 3¼ cents per hour. Company officials have estimated that they will have to shell out on the pension plan \$1 million annually for future funds and about 1½ million additional a year to finance past services on the basis of a 10-year funding scheme.

A record-smashing crowd of 9,100 union members jammed the market building to cast their vote in favor of acceptance, with a considerable minority of 21 per cent. or over 1,900 workers opposed.

While the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of acceptance it was no easy task for Reuther and the Canadian leadership to put it over. Reuther was compelled to build up the offer as a victory for principle, not immediate benefits. Burt called upon Ford workers, who on many other occasions have led Canadian labor's struggles for extensive gains, to look upon themselves as pioneers for other unionists and the "little fellow whether in the city or on the farm." This time to pioneer is to get little you can put your teeth into. "While inadequate as

to benefits," Burt admitted, "it includes all the basic principles of sound industrial pension. . . ."

Even if we were to accept the idea that it is alright that the 12,000 Ford workers gained almost nothing to counteract the rising cost of living and the ever mounting threat of unemployment, just what principles were established? Just what precedents were set by the acceptance of the Ford pension plan signed at the opening of this year's wage drive?

The Ford contract marks the first score in the campaign for company paid pensions. But it calls for a miserable \$55 a month pension for all those who will be automatically kicked out of the shop at the age of 68 and who are fortunate enough to possess unbroken service of 30 or more years. Those with less than 10 years service at retirement age receive nothing—those with more than 10 years will receive a pension proportionate to their years of service.

This pension scheme of a mere \$660 a year will not supplement the present government pension and thus provide retired workers with something like a livable income. On the contrary every Ford pensioner will be ineligible for government pension because of the present 600 dollar means test. Local 200 officials and company representatives who trooped to Ottawa to impress national health minister and Windsor M.P. Hon. Paul Martin with the need to remove the means test, have tried to create the impression that it will be removed shortly. But the day following the vote an official statement issued from the minister's office icily commented "It is understood here that Hon. Paul

Martin did not discuss with the union or company any specific proposals either with regard to amount or eligibility or any other detail of any proposed social security legislation."

Not only are the security gains skimpy, with the pensions affecting only a small minority, the contract marked up nothing on wages and hours. The pension issue has been utilized by the leadership not as a supplement to the more pressing and immediate needs of labor but as a substitute for them. Far from increasing the fighting strength of the union, far from arming it to defend itself from contract chiseling, speed up, wage cuts, etc., this pension scheme will tend to become a lever in the bosses' hands, building up conservative tendencies in the union's ranks and playing into the hands of the union bureaucracy.

This scheme will chain the worker to the one plant for he has nothing if he leaves. As he accumulates years of service it will become a whip in the bosses' hands to compel him to toe the line in fear of losing this accumulated credit. Since it requires continuity of service Ford will attempt to use it as a threat to prevent strikes. Pension costs further promote discrimination against employment of older workers.

The Ford settlement is far from carving out new lines of march for Canadian labor. Coming as it does at the opening of this year's wage drive, as Chrysler, G.M., steel, lumber, packinghouse, etc., are moving into negotiations for shorter hours, across-the-board wage increases, and incidentally pension demands just twice as high, it sets if anything a bad precedent.



# LABOR CHALLENGE

Vol. VI, No. 4, (81)

April, 1950

04-01-04

## "Our Way of Life"

With the cry of keeping creeds "alien to our way of life," out of the country, government flunkies, the press, all the minions of the monopolists are united in an attempt to erect bulwarks against "foreign ideas." Not content with the witch hunt that is sweeping "suspects" from the civil service, Liberal M.P. Good, former member of the RCMP, is demanding that the government devise some method of preventing such persons as "proud to be born a Canadian" LPP leader Tim Buck from leaving this country or from returning to it—or at the very least from travelling to alien climes and returning hopped up, freshly indoctrinated, with alien ideas.

Liberal Senator Vincent Dupuis has suggested an even more ingenious method of preventing alien ideologies from creeping under the already mountain-high border and immigration barriers. He urges that all foreign born adults be prevented from stepping onto Canadian soil, that only children between the ages of seven and 14 be allowed in as immigrants.

In their efforts to destroy all ideas that contravene, that challenge their class interests, the capitalist rulers and their "yes" men brand liberal, socialist or communist ideas as ideas alien and foreign to the Canadian way of life.

All their shouting to the contrary, there is nothing particularly Canadian in present-day Canadian society. It is the offspring of European civilization; its foundation rests on a whole series of "alien importations" from across the Atlantic. If there is any creed not alien to Canada it is communism.

When the white man landed on the shores of this continent he found the native population living under a form of primitive communism. With blunderbuss and fire-water the white conquerors smashed the idyllic Indian communities and imposed imported capitalism, Christianity and their moral and ethical ways of life. This foreign ideology, the ideology of capitalism replaced the Indian—the Canadian way of life.

With the rise of capitalism on this continent, the forging of an industrial proletariat and the radicalization of this class, there is a turn towards communist ideology, growing on a new productive system. If communist ideas in the Marxian sense found their first coherent expression in the class experiences in Europe they are no more alien to Canada than the capitalist system that shaped them and was transported to America.

The Goods and the Dupuis see these ideas that they so much fear, coming in the window, coming through the door and now down the chimney. In their hysteria they slap down border bans, they may hope to fill prisons with those who "think dangerous thoughts," they may clamp a "cordon sanitaire" around the country but they will prove powerless to prevent the spread of these liberating ideas.

For every head that is chopped off ten will spring up. The communist nemesis of Canadian capitalism is spawned by the capitalist system itself.

## Not Anything Goes

The Letter to the Editor column includes a letter from Murray Cotterill and a reply from a B.C. CCF contributor whom he attacks for defending, in last month's issue, the Trail local of the Stalinist led Mine Mill and Smelter Workers Union from the Steelworkers raid.

We believe that Brother Cotterill's fundamental error in his whitewash of Steel's raid on Mine Mill flows from an incorrect belief that "anything goes" in the struggle against the Stalinists.

As is well known we Trotskyists are bitterly opposed to Stalinism and to any conciliation with it whatever. We have been carrying the battle against this poisonous virus for more than a score of years. But unlike the swelling and now fashionably respectable throng of "anti-Stalinists" we believe that the fight against Stalinism is part of the general anti-capitalist struggle, not separate from it nor in contradiction to it.

Stalinism, contemptuous of the mass, has injected into the labor movement violence and terror against its opponents. Some genuine anti-Stalinists, repelled by this horror, themselves fall into the same basic error as the Stalinists . . . they overestimate the power of maneuvers and force. They have very little or no faith that the workers can defeat Stalinism and that the principled struggle must be substituted with cynical maneuvers from on top, by unprincipled alliances and combinations.

This has led them to defend or to go along with the high-handed actions of the top CCL leadership who themselves make little effort to pretend that their campaign against the Stalinists is anything other than the extension of the boss government's cold war into the ranks of labor. This has led them to condone and underwrite the bureaucratic expulsion of Mine Mill and the suspension of the UE from the CCL.

To be sure these high-handed bureaucratic expulsions have struck staggering blows at the Stalinist trade union apparatus but it is equally true that Stalinism as a force in the labor movement has suffered little impairment. Its real strength lies in its demagogical capacity to deceive, demoralize and disorient the more radical elements who have attained a class consciousness. These forces are the most decisive for the future for it is their destiny to lead others. Through the bureaucratic actions of the Steel leadership and their Trail collaborators not only have the workers been weakened in relationship to the bosses, but many of the more radical elements, who could have been educated and made conscious opponents of Stalinism and its traitorous role in the labor movement, have been confused and disoriented.

We stand bitterly opposed to this brand of anti-Stalinism. Stalinism cannot be disposed of by reliance on police measures but only on an uncompromising principled fight combined with a tactical approach which will enable the militants to win the workers away from its perfidious influence.

## The Worker's Forum

★ The Workers' Forum columns are open to the opinions of the readers of Labor Challenge. Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers. Keep them as short as possible and include your name and address. Indicate if you do not want your name published. ★



### Criticism and Reply

Editor:

I must confess that I am somewhat disappointed in your article on the Trail situation appearing in the March issue of Labor Challenge. It seems that your organization is more interested in factional advantage within the B.C. section of the CCF than in either the truth or the progress of the workers.

There was a time when "unity of the workers" was the chief slogan of progressives within the working class movement. Has the wheel turned so completely that "perpetual Balkanization" has now become the slogan?

The workers of Trail have two simple choices—they can belong to a large effective industrial union uniting metal workers from ore mining up to fabrication, or they can remain isolated in a comparatively ineffective union in which the rank and file point of view is completely smothered by a Stalinist bureaucracy. The entire elected executive of Trail, all the elected committeemen and the vast majority of the steward body decided that working class unity was preferable and in the best interest of the workers who elected them to office. Under the Mine, Mill constitution, they had no alternative but to resign, place the issue fairly and squarely before the workers and urge the workers to re-establish unity with the CIO-CCF movement through membership in the United Steelworkers of America. As indicated by recent application for certification the majority of workers have apparently followed their lead.

It is most disappointing to find your publication parroting Stalinist lies and perversion in an obvious attempt to embarrass the CCF leadership in B.C. at the expense of the metal miners and smelter workers now completely at the mercy of the mine operators because of the Stalinist separatism practiced by their apparently irremovable leadership.

May I suggest that you retain your confidence in the workers' instinctive belief in unity rather than attempting to out-Stalinize the Stalinists?

—Murray Cotterill

EDITOR'S NOTE: Brother Cotterill is director of the Political Action Committee of the Canadian Congress of Labor (CIO), president of the Toronto Labor Council and an international representative of the United Steelworkers of America.

Bro. Cotterill:

In reply to my article on the Mine Mill-United Steelworkers Union jurisdictional fight in Trail, B.C., you very ably dodge answering any of the charges made. Instead you begin your letter by charging that I and the Revolutionary Workers Party are more interested in factional advantages within the CCF than in either "the truth or the progress of the workers." An amazing statement coming from one who has shown himself to be so careless of the truth. Since when is the raiding

of a union by another union "progressive?"

You refer very glibly to "unity of the workers," though by what stretch of the imagination can raiding be termed "unity"?

In the reference to the two choices the workers of Trail possess, you would have it appear that the Mine Mill local in Trail is nothing more than a small local independent union; when in reality it is the second largest Mine Mill local in Canada, being second in size only to the Sudbury local. Kimberley, the third largest local, which is assisting the Trail local in repulsing the Steel raid, always joins with Trail in joint bargaining with the Consolidated Mining and Smelting bosses.

Further, Brother Cotterill, you make a reference to the renegade leaders of the Mine Mill as having no alternative but to resign because of Mine Mill's implied undemocratic constitution — apparently democratic enough to permit them to become leaders. In reality there was nothing to prevent the former leaders from calling a meeting and laying whatever charges they wished to before the membership. But this they did not do. They preferred to sneak out of the union and to inform the membership of their action the next day in a newspaper ad. These men had no intention of severing their relations in a principled manner, for it was subsequently proven that they, along with Mr. Gargraves, Mahoney and such "respectable labor leaders" too, plotted as far back as December of 1949 to betray the workers of Trail. Yet from that time up until their desertion these "respectable" turncoats accepted their salaries paid for by the workers they were preparing to desert.

No, Brother Cotterill, we do not parrot the Stalinists; neither do we use their methods as the Steelworkers' raiders do.

Nor will unity be maintained within any movement, trade union or CCF, by the use of such methods. Don't shed bitter tears now over the workers being at the mercy of the Mine operators. It would have been better to shed them a little earlier, not after the vicious campaign was launched that accomplished just that. By just such stupid or traitorous actions are the Stalinists able to pose as the defenders of the workers. Now WE are the tools of the Stalinists? Come, come, Brother Cotterill, you do not expect anyone to believe that one?

May I respectfully suggest, Brother Cotterill, that in offering advice and criticism of us, that you would do well to offer it where it would do the most good—to the United Steelworkers of America's own bureaucratic leadership.

This reply is from the author of the article that appeared in the last issue of Labor Challenge to which Brother Cotterill took exception. The name of the author who is a leading figure in the B.C. CCF Left is withheld upon his request.





# TROTSKYISM AROUND THE GLOBE

The Fourth International rises on the shoulders of its three predecessors. It is subjected to blows from the front, the sides and the rear. Careerists, cowards, philistines have nothing to seek in our ranks. The percentage of sectarians and adventurists, inevitable at the beginning, is winnowed away as the movement grows. Let pedants and skeptics shrug their shoulders about "small" organizations that issue "small" papers and fling a challenge to the entire world. Serious revolutionists will pass contemptuously by the pedants and skeptics. The October Revolution also once began with its swaddling clothes. . . .

—Leon Trotsky.

## CEYLON

A huge mass meeting of 30,000 was held at Colombo, Ceylon, on Feb. 4 under the joint auspices of the two Trotskyist organizations who are now negotiating a merger.

Despite the organization by the government of another public meeting scheduled simultaneously in order to create a diversion, thousands of people came from all parts of the country to swell the attendance, all of them enthused by the prospect of the unification of the Trotskyist organizations.

The mass meeting was chaired by Comrade N. M. Perera. Among the speakers were Leslie Goonawardena (Tilak) and Colvin R. de Silva, both of whom urged speedy unification.

The organizations involved are the Bolshevik Samasamaja Party and the Lanka Samasamaja Party, who hold seven seats in the Ceylon Parliament. In the recent municipal elections they won five seats in the Colombo Council and one of them was elected Deputy Mayor.

Never before in the last few years have the Ceylonese workers demonstrated with such enthusiasm their solidarity with the Trotskyist organizations. The unification platform was defended by all the speakers. Following this meeting, there were to be noted unquestionable signs of demoralization among the Stalinists who had been banking on a split in Trotskyist ranks.

★ ★ ★

## FRANCE

An organized attempt was made by the French Stalinists to break up a meeting in Paris on February 24 at the Palais de la Mutualité where Louis Dalmas, a journalist, spoke under the auspices of the Lenin Circle on his recent visit to Yugoslavia. There were about 300 people in attendance when a group of some 50 Stalinists started their disruptive tactics. They were

quickly beaten back by well-organized defense squads and compelled to leave the hall. Dalmas then delivered his talk on "Yugoslavia Today."

The Stalinist daily Humanite carried an account of the Dalmas meeting under the provocative caption "Silence the Titoists!"

"The Trotskyist propagandists for the traitor Tito," fumed L'Humanite, "are deluding themselves if they think they will be able to glorify with impunity the fascist regime now raging in Yugoslavia." Then referring to the Dalmas meeting, the Humanite gangsters boasted of the presence of the "partisans of peace" in the hall and concluded with the thinly veiled threat that it would not "take long" before the Trotskyists were made to understand that the "French people have no love for those who sing eulogies to fascism."

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## SWEDEN

A dissident tendency in the ranks of the Swedish Left Socialist Party has formally come out in favor of the world Trotskyist movement. In a resolution declaring in favor of the Fourth International, it is stated:

"History has proved that there is only one International which kept the revolutionary spirit alive during the (last) imperialist war and which has given examples of individual and collective courage that can be denied by no historians, not even those of the bourgeoisie, nor by any of those people who claim monopoly of anti-fascist struggle. . . .

"The partisans of the Fourth International take no responsibility whatsoever for any of the governments existing today. They feel responsible only to the working class with whom they are ideologically

fused. Leninism-Trotskyism showed the way to the victory of the revolution in 1917-21, even if the Stalinist bureaucracy later usurped the fruits of this victory. The struggle against the capitalist system and for the victory of the revolution and socialism will continue because only this struggle can prevent the outbreak of the third world war."

★ ★ ★

## UNITED STATES

The American Trotskyists, organized in the Socialist Workers Party, are preparing to participate to the maximum of their forces and resources in the 1950 fall elections. In keeping with the revolutionary traditions of Eugene V. Debs they are going to counterpose the alternative of socialism to the demagogy of Truman's "welfare state" and the dire threat of a police state, military dictatorship, and war. Their campaign will be all the more significant what with the role of the Stalinist supported Wallaceite Progressive Party, the Norman Thomas-led Socialist Party, and the Murray-Reuther CIO leadership which is backing Truman's Democratic machine.

The Wallace movement, which decided at its convention of last month to abstain from running candidates where it finds "deserving" candidates of the boss Republican and Democratic parties, is contesting less than one ninth of the 467 seats to be filled. In New Jersey where they could have easily filled all the necessary petitions and contested all of the 14 congressional districts they have filed for only three seats, all held by Republicans. They are contesting none of the five seats held by Trumanites.

The Socialist Party, at present attempting to dissolve itself into the Truman-supporting Social

Democratic Federation is discussing Thomas' proposal to discontinue independent electoral activity and become the left wing of the Democratic Party. Important sections of the SP have already shown their "good will" in this respect by withdrawing from the 1950 campaign (as in Michigan).

The Michigan branches of the SWP have their campaign for the 10,500 signatures needed to place the party on the state ballot well underway. The Pennsylvania section of the party has nominated Clyde Turner, the first woman ever to run for a U.S. Senatorship from Pennsylvania and the first Negro candidate for that office since Reconstruction days. Herbert Lewin was nominated for the gubernatorial candidacy. William E. Bohannon, whose petitions have already been filed, will be SWP candidate for Congress from New Jersey's 11th District. His only opposition will be a Republican and a Democratic candidate — the SP and Wallaceites ran in the 1948 campaign but have withdrawn this year.

The Socialist Workers Party in this campaign will win for itself in the minds of broad layers of the American working class the name of the party of socialism.

★ ★ ★

## ITALY

On Sunday, March 5th the first public meeting in Rome of the Italian Trotskyist movement (Revolutionary Communist Group) was held. In a hall decorated with the portraits of Lenin and Trotsky and the banner of the Fourth International, 200 people heard an outline of the programmatic bases of the Trotskyist movement. The speech was given by Comrade Liyo Maltan, secretary of the movement, former National Secretary of the Italian Socialist Youth and a former member of the National Executive of the Peoples Democratic Front.

The meeting was a great success and received wide publicity. Several daily and weekly newspapers, among them some of the most widely read in Rome, carried reports of the meeting. A rally of the same character had already been held in Palermo, capital of Sicily, and a third will be held in Milan. Besides this meeting the Rome comrades are going to organize a public meeting and forum on the Yugoslav question.

On the first of April will appear the first issue of Bandiera Rossa (Red Flag), official organ of the Revolutionary Communist group.



## THE RWP IN ACTION

The party is sustaining a high level of educational activity with study classes operating simultaneously at Windsor and Toronto. At the same time Vancouver is continuing its very successful series of alternate Thursday night forums.

The Toronto class, under the able guidance of Barry Brent, is a series of five on the Communist Manifesto. Last month Windsor completed an excellent series on Labor and the Political Scene and has commenced a group of six on Political Economy for Trade Unionists. Vancouver has just forwarded a list of topics which they will cover in the next two months. Their April 27 forum will be May Day and the Fight Against War. Toronto's May Day celebration will take place on April 30th with a special treat for Toronto friends.

Toronto held a very successful meeting with E. R. Frank, U.S. Trotskyist trade union director, speaking on the Outlook for Labor 1950. An enthusiastic audience of 25 to 30 turned in a collection of over \$16. Comrade Frank is speaking at Vancouver, as we go to press, on the same general topic.

Labor Challenge boosters have been hard at work spreading the word of the coming Canadian revolution, picking up renewals on expired subs, and introducing the paper to new readers. In the past month and a half more than a dozen subs have come in from such widely scattered points as Dawson City and Skeena Crossing in the North-West and Montreal in the East. These subs are the results of sample mailings of the paper. One of the new subscribers in Saskatchewan sent us the encouraging letter appearing in the Letters to the Editor column.

While many readers are renewing their sub to the paper via mail, thus saving our boosters' energies

for the obtaining of new subs, several points have been doing extensive renewal work. Renewals have been coming in from Wiseton and Lloydminster in Saskatchewan, Britannia Beach, B.C., with Magna Bay sending in eight in the past two months. Vancouver scored 11 renewals, one for two years, with Toronto leading with a total of 26.

A distribution of the last issue at a Hamilton meeting of the Committee of Fighters for Trade Union Unity roused considerable interest. Our distributors were asked many questions, one Stalinist worker coming out of the meeting to have a lengthy debate-discussion. While discussing our position on the Soviet Union with another Stalinist we received the o.k. sign from his companion. One steelworker stopped to take a sub to the paper.

A distribution at the first Windsor rally of the Union of Unemployed Workers, sponsored by the Stalinists in opposition to the CIO-CCF's National Federation of Unemployed Workers, resulted in the notorious anti-labor columnist of the Windsor Star, R. M. Harrison, writing up the meeting as being "promoted by the Revolutionary Workers Party, Canadian section of the Fourth International." In his column, which he has used to put the finger on many militants, Harrison stated that while the RWP "takes issue with what it calls the 'Stalinist Labor Progressive Party' . . . both are tarred with the same brush, with the same colour of tar."

Book sales in the past month have increased with orders coming in from Trail, Prince Rupert, Bronte and other points. A new catalogue of books available has been drawn up and is ready for circulation to anyone upon request.

## RWP Paper Raises Storm At Penticton

The last issue of Labor Challenge, containing contributions from B.C. CCFers and dealing with the tasks confronting the Left wing, raised an uproar in a 4-hour closed session at Penticton. The Right used the occasion to cast suspicions and aspersions against the Left. Harold Winch teed off on "leaks" in the organization and declaimed about traitors in our midst. No one suggested investigating the validity of the material in Labor Challenge but some one suggested a commission of enquiry to ferret out the "guilty ones." President-elect MacNeil shook his finger; "I object to an effort to control this party from the outside."

The April 10th issue of the Liberal Vancouver Sun contained a report which itself is a "leak," source undisclosed, from the 4-hour closed session. It reported that "Harold Winch castigated his party's provincial executive Friday for what he describes as a 'leak' from private meetings."

The Vancouver Sun, owned and operated by the mining and lumber bosses, which warmly commended Laura Jamieson's (first vice-president elect) attack on Colin Cameron's appeal for a socialist policy, ran interference for the Coldwell-MacNeil leadership with an editorial next day.

The editorial chided the national leadership for not purging the B.C. rebels as was done in Manitoba. To our knowledge MacNeil has made no objections to the Sun's "effort to control this party." After calling for such action, no doubt long contemplated by the Right, the editorial comments on possible reasons for not carrying it out: "Perhaps because they (the Left) are too numerous to be expelled. Perhaps because . . . these things really do represent the thought and feeling of the CCF membership as a whole."

**LABOR CHALLENGE**

(81) April 1950

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**STALIN'S POLICE JAIL VICTIMS OF FASCISM**

Two leading German Trotskyists, Oscar Hippe and Walter Haas, have been arrested in the Soviet controlled zone of Berlin by Stalin's secret police and thrust into concentration camp. This grave news has just been received from their friends in the former German capital.

Ross Dowson, national secretary of the Revolutionary Workers Party, in an interview with the press, appealed to all labor and liberal organizations to protest the arrest of these two working class militants and demand their immediate release from the prison camps in the Soviet Union where they are being held by the MVD.

The monstrosity of the crime that Stalin's GPU has committed against these two working class militants, who have devoted body and soul to the cause of their class, is all the more revolting because both men have suffered terribly under the Nazi terror.

Oscar Hippe, born in Lutzkendorf in 1900, has a heroic record. He was an old Spartacist follower of Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht. He was arrested and held in prison for revolutionary activity from March to November 1919 under the Weimar Republic, and again in 1926. Under the Nazi regime he was arrested and tortured three times and imprisoned for two years in the internment camp at Luckau. One of the first to break with Stalinism among the German Communists, Hippe became a leader of the Berlin Trotskyist organization before 1933. After Hitler's downfall he became a member of the Berlin council of the trade union movement that was reconstituted. Arrested in September, 1948, he was condemned by a Russian military court to 25 years at forced labor "for anti-Soviet activity and the formation

of a clandestine organization."

Walter Haas, also a leading Berlin Trotskyist, was arrested toward the end of 1948 under dramatic circumstances in the headquarters of the "German Economic Commission"—the center for the present Ministry of Planning for Eastern Germany. He resisted arrest and was severely beaten in public on that occasion. It is not known what verdict was imposed upon him, only that he was taken to a concentration camp in the U.S.S.R. Haas, under the Nazi regime, was condemned for high treason for his role as leader in the underground Trotskyist organization at Berlin. He spent three years in the prisons at Plötzensee and at Cottbus.

"All organizations and individuals concerned with civil and labor rights must join in a powerful protest against the arrest and deportation of these two anti-fascist and working class leaders," said Dowson. "Their lives are in serious danger and they need our help. Stalin's secret police must not be allowed to commit such crimes against political and trade union opponents. Only through vigorous protest from progressive world opinion will Stalin be forced to release his victims and cease his terror against militant workers and a free labor movement in Germany."

Letters and resolutions of protest should be sent to the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa, to the Socialist Unity Party (SED) the party in power in Eastern Germany, and to the Editor of Neues Deutschland in Berlin, the central organ of the SED.

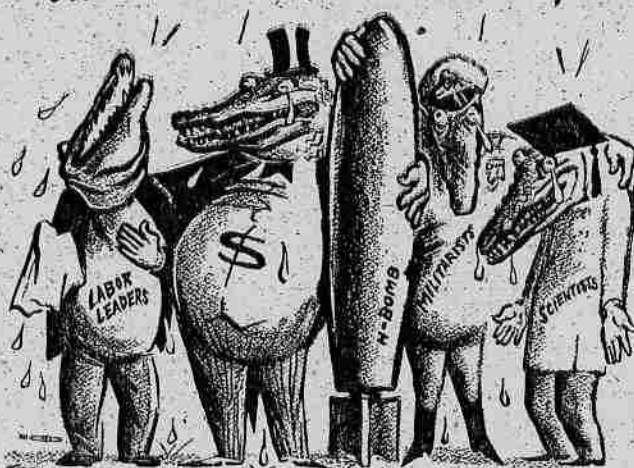
# YUGOSLAVS ISSUE WORLD CALL

## RAIL UNIONS TO TAKE STRIKE VOTE

Turning thumbs down on a conciliation board recommendation that they should be content with a 44-hour week instead of 40, and accept a miserable hourly wage increase which would mean a cut in the weekly pay envelope of the majority, the top policy committees of 15 international railway unions have called for a strike vote amongst their 30,000 members. The 30,000 members of the CCL Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees are already in the process of taking a strike vote. The three running trades unions, negotiating separately, are still going through conciliation but it is generally conceded that their demands will likewise be rejected by the CPR railway moguls and the representatives of the government-owned CNR.

While the leaders, who had already been warned by Division 4 unions that the board recommendation was unacceptable, were glumly mulling over the offer, the CPR struck a blow below the belt blow. Hoping to intimidate the committee and frighten union ranks they dismissed 500 employees and slashed

OH—THE HORROR OF IT ALL!



## Urge Return of Workers To Principles of Leninism

The Yugoslav Communist Party, which has been putting up a heroic resistance to the pressure of world imperialism and since its split with the Cominform in 1948 to Stalin's attempts to strangle Yugoslavia with an economic blockade, his threats of invasion, his attempts to promote a civil war within the country and an international campaign of vilification, marked a great turning point in the history of the world working class with its ringing May Day proclamation.

In keeping with the greatest and best traditions of May Day the Central Committee of the Yugoslav CP addressed its appeal to the international labor movement. It called upon the world working class to rally its forces in a struggle to revive Lenin's program of socialist internationalism and wage war against its revision and perversion at the hands of the Kremlin oligarchy which has usurped and undermined the conquests of the Russian Revolution.

The Manifesto read in part: "The current inside the international workers' and democratic movement, which defends the just cause of our country, and the struggle against the revision of Marxism and Leninism (by the Russians) is becoming more and more powerful. The number of who are participating in this cause is increasing from day to day and we send them our fraternal greetings on the occasion of

working class struggles on a world scale. It is a vindication of the program and the struggle of the 30 odd parties rallied around the banner of the Fourth International. This proclamation marks a high point in the stirring evolution of the Yugoslav Communist Party that has held the attention of the most advanced workers since its break with the Stalinist Cominform in 1948.

### COULD NEVER SUBMIT

The Yugoslav leaders at the head of a mighty mass movement which unaided by the Red Army carried out a heroic and successful struggle against Nazi invaders and Anglo-American agents, have come a long way since then. Dealing with a vibrant mass movement with state power in its hands, Stalin proved unable to make of Yugoslavia a satellite country and turn its economy into a milk cow for the Russian nationalistic bureaucracy. And he proved unable to destroy his opponents with ax and pistol or to swamp and isolate them with slander and vilification as he had been able to do with isolated workers groups elsewhere. Tito and his aides could never submit to Kremlin domination without the threat of being swept aside by the revolutionary peasants and workers.

Under each blow, the Yugoslavs and their leaders have become firmer and more clearly aware of the real nature of Stalinism. From singing praise to the Cominform and Stalin as the great leadership of the workers, to the belief that the Cominform misinterpreted the voice in the Kremlin, they have advanced to the understanding of the counter-revolutionary role of

# RWP Speaker Exposes Peace Congress Policy

By JOSEPH MARKIN

The second gathering of the Canadian Peace Congress, into which the Stalinist Labor Progressive Party for the last several months had concentrated its main efforts, met on the weekend of May 7-8 in Toronto.

The first day's sessions were held in the Bathurst Street United Church. These quarters accurately reflected the tone of the whole spirit and conduct of the Congress. Only one shoddily-painted banner hung in pitiful isolation on the balcony-ledge of the large auditorium. The site of the rally was in keeping with the slogans hung up in the registration room, "War is a Sin Against God," etc. Most appropriate of all to the spirit and setting of this "Peace Congress"

were the large Union Jacks waving above the platform. The Sunday sessions, which were not held at the church, opened with a religious service to compensate for this lack.

The Congress was convened to climax the Ban-the-Bomb petition campaign. These petitions, claimed by the Congress to number 128,000 signatures out of an objective of 200,000 and collected after several lengthy postponements of deadlines, were meekly, almost apologetically presented to Minis-

ter for External Affairs Pearson on May 4. By contrast, a price-control petition of a couple of years ago rolled up 750,000 signatures. The main theme of the Congress was the idea that it must be dominated by the "program"—highly acceptable to the Stalinists—of the few do-gooders they had managed to pick up, in order to establish a "broad base." But that there was much doubt as to the wisdom of this feeble and cowardly policy was indicated by the insistent hammering of the "necessity" for this milk-of-human-kindness program into the delegates. Leslie Morris, editor of the Stalinist Canadian Tribune, in particular emphasized the point that the "struggle for peace" stands entirely apart from all other ques-

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## Peace Congress Hears Dowson

(Continued from page 1)

From p. 1

tions and hence can unite all regardless of differences in politics, etc. This position of holding up the "peace" question as separate from all others has led and will lead the Stalinists into further betrayal of labor by support of boss politicians, such as their stumping for Liberal John Decore (Vegreville) in last June's elections.

For this same great "principle" of "winning everybody," Peace Congress National Chairman Dr. James G. Endicott in the opening session justified his support of the expulsion of the Yugoslavs from the World Congress of the Partisans of Peace, which Pearson had held up as proof that the movement was Kremlin-dominated. He himself didn't know ten per cent. of the Cominform line, Endicott averred; however when the Yugoslav delegate at a meeting in New York remarked that the Bolsheviks in the peace movement must carry on a struggle against the Mensheviks, Endicott said he informed him he was interested in no such struggle, that the Peace Councils were for all men of good will to unite in as brothers. Hence his support of the Yugoslav expulsion.

### DOWSON SPEAKS

He repeated this to the 10,000 persons at the climactic rally for the Dean of Canterbury. The largely Stalinist-influenced audience sat silent at this attack upon the Yugoslavs from the right — as Bolsheviks.

The one breath of the class struggle which blasted through the pious deadness of the church-ensconced gathering shipped from all parts of the Dominion for this "inspiring demonstration," was introduced by Ross Dowson. Refused admission as a delegate from the RWP, Dowson was finally accepted as a representative of Labor Challenge. He told the delegates that the over 15,000 votes he received for mayor of Toronto last year were votes against war, because they were class-conscious votes for labor. War, he said, was caused by the capitalist drive for profitable markets, not by the ill-

(Continued on page 4)

will or mistakes of governments or individuals. They could only be fought, therefore, within the framework of the general anti-capitalist struggle, by raising the class consciousness of the workers to the tasks which confront them. The peace slogan is a false slogan, he declared; do we support the peace of the Greek concentration camps, of slavery and oppression? Do we not hail the heroic struggles of the Chinese masses and the Viet Nam freedom fighters, battling against Wall Street intervention and threats of open aggression? And should we not support the defiant stand of Yugoslavia against the Kremlin, which seeks to drive it into the camp of imperialism and so halt its march to socialism?

We are for a broad peace movement, he stated, but it must be dominated by labor, and founded on an anti-capitalist program. He called on the Congress to instruct the CCF M.P.'s, elected by 800,000 Canadians as labor candidates and backed by the organized might of the CIO-CCL, to vote against all war credits; and to demand that the question of war or peace be taken out of Bay Street's parliament and placed in the hands of the people through a popular referendum.

He called for the Congress to brand Wall Street as the aggressor but at the same time demand the U.S.S.R. halt its provocations against revolutionary Yugoslavia, which permit imperialism to pass off as good coin its lie that the Soviet Union is the aggressor in the cold war.

Dowson's speech provoked a mixed reaction, blasting as it did the classless atmosphere of the Congress. Indicative of the power of the referendum slogan advanced by Dowson was the assertion the following day by a delegate from Sudbury that if a vote were called by the government on the question of war, it would be defeated by a thunderous majority. This statement received perhaps the loudest and most enthusiastic mid-speech applause of the session.

Having completed the Ban-the-Bomb campaign, the Congress voted to open another petition drive, this time for 500,000 signatures, around the slogan of a peace conference to end the cold war. This is the essence of the Stalinist and do-gooder ideology which permeates the movement — denial of the real nature of capitalism with the lying illusion of compatibility and peaceful co-operation. It was best illustrated at the Congress by the Stalinist literature agent who held up a Quaker pamphlet on this theme and strongly recom-

mended it as an effective answer to those who held such cooperation was impossible. People like Lenin, for example.

The Toronto branch of the Revolutionary Workers Party distributed a leaflet to the delegates which, along with Dowson's speech, sharply exposed these illusions. It read in part:

"Previous peace movements, more massive than the present Congress, which have ignored the glaring economic realities of the war drive and based themselves on pious pacifist bleatings about the horrors of war, good will and other sweet phrases, have played a treacherous role.

Remember the hollow League for Peace and Democracy? And the pre-war pacifism of J. S. Woodsworth and the CCF M.P.'s? Because they were based on the false slogans of patriotism, of disarmament and harmony among all, and did not forge a hard mass opposition to the rulers and their system, at the first sound of the bugle they burst like a swollen balloon and revealed how essential is an anti-capitalist program. Big numbers in themselves mean nothing. WITH A FALSE PROGRAM THEY ARE AS FUTILE AS AN ARMY WITHOUT ARMS.

The Canadian Tribune, which presents itself as the main supporter of peace and of the Peace Congress, is a tragic illustration of the treachery and duplicity to the real struggle against war which this criminal denial and slurring over of economic realities, of the nature of the capitalist system, leads to. This paper which now proclaims in its headlines, **FIRST BOMB USER IS WAR CRIMINAL**, once had an entirely different attitude. When the whole world stood aghast at the atomic annihilation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Tribune of August 18, 1945, bore a screeching headline:

### U.S.S.R., ATOM BOMB KO JAPAN WARLORDS

Far from holding up U.S. imperialism as a war criminal, the Tribune tried to muscle in on the "glory" of manufacturing the weapon, which it stated climaxed "decades of research, in which the French scientists and Communists F. Joliet-Curie and Paul Langevin pioneered." The atomization of these cities was an occasion, according to the Tribune, of "universal rejoicing in Canada." FROM SUPPORT OF THE STALIN-HITLER DRIVE ON POLAND WHICH OPENED WORLD WAR II, TO THE ATOM-BLASTING OF JAPAN WHICH ENDED IT, IS ALL WITHIN THE "PRINCIPLES" OF THIS "PEACE PAPER." And how vigorously it supports today Stalin's provocations and warmongering against

revolutionary Yugoslavia, founded in the mass struggles of the Partisans against German imperialism and the native capitalist reaction under Mikhailovitch!

In its edition of August 10, 1945, this paper shouted that "victory will banish the scourge of war for many generations." Labor Challenge, organ of Canadian Trotskyism, in its September 1945 issue, proclaimed in a banner headline: **THERE IS NO PEACE!** Which was right—the pious and soothing voice of the Tribune of the Marxist analysis?

What is the real character of this "peace program" you are being asked to ratify? The Ban-the-Bomb petition calls on the Canadian government to press for strictest international control to ensure compliance of all nations in outlawing the bomb as a military weapon. Even if this were agreed upon by the imperialists, what would it solve? **BANNING THE BOMB WOULD NOT BAN WAR—IT WOULD MERELY BAN ONE OF THE WEAPONS OF WAR. AND WEAPONS DO NOT CAUSE WAR ANY MORE THAN RAIN CAUSES CLOUDS—THEY ARE ITS PRODUCTS.** Is the Peace Congress and the Tribune in favor of a "gentleman's war," so long as nothing more destructive than blockbusters, rockets and the hellish flame-thrower are employed?

[Would such an agreement be] any assurance that the bomb would not be used after a war got underway? What does a union contract mean to a boss when a tiny fraction of his profits are at stake? What does a piece of paper mean to the capitalist powers when their whole system is at stake? And how is it possible to appeal for "international control" of weapons? **THERE IS NO IMPARTIAL BODY IN MODERN CLASS-DIVIDED SOCIETY.** Show us the "impartial" judge and the impartial arbitration board!

In order to make your weight felt as decisively as possible in the struggle against war, it is necessary to listen to the words of Lenin—words which the Russian workers put into action to topple capitalism in one sixth of the globe and force a halt to the first world slaughter:

**"YOU WANT TO FIGHT AGAINST WAR, FIGHT THEN AGAINST THE BOURGEOISIE IN TIMES OF PEACE, REFUSE TO VOTE MILITARY CREDITS, BUILD BRICK BY BRICK YOUR OWN INDEPENDENT REVOLUTIONARY PROLETARIAN PARTY."**

The Canadian anti-war party—the Revolutionary Workers Party, Canadian section of the Fourth International—invites you to enlist in its ranks for the struggle for peace and plenty—for socialism.

# LABOR CHALLENGE

05-01-2

Subscription: 50 cents for one year subscription (12 issues)

The policy of *Labor Challenge* is reflected in its editorials. Signed articles and features express the ideas of our contributors and do not necessarily represent the policies or opinion of *Labor Challenge*.

Set up and printed by Merchants Press, 323 King St. W., Toronto.  
Authorized as Second Class mail by The Post Office Dept., Ottawa

Vol. VI, No. 5 (82)

May, 1950



The objective pre-requisites for the proletarian revolution have not only "ripened"; they have begun to get somewhat rotten. Without a socialist revolution, in the next historical period at that, a catastrophe threatens the whole culture of mankind. The turn is now to the proletariat, i.e., chiefly to its revolutionary vanguard. The historical crisis of mankind is reduced to the crisis of the revolutionary leadership.

—Leon Trotsky.

## For Unity Via Submission

The national leadership of the CCF and their protégés in the B.C. section have broken their silence on *Labor Challenge*. Don't think for a moment that they have bothered to answer any of our comments on the inspiring struggle being waged by the Left or any of the exposures of the national leadership's treachery and their political bankruptcy that we have ourselves revealed or have had sent in for publication by various CCF left wingers. No, not at all.

Walter Mentz, who sometimes passes himself off as a leftist in a column he writes under the pen-name De Bunker, does the job. It is entitled *Unity Through Democratic Discipline*. It is written in three acts.

Act one; an apology, a whitewash for the Coldwell leadership who have been so clearly exposed by Colin Cameron and other B.C. CCF leftists for their compromising of fundamental principles. The theme is that we are advancing (?) "through uncharted terrain. Lot of it is trial and error. Plenty of error." We are "sometimes zigzagging or even retreating," he concedes, but the task of Mr. Coldwell and company "is not always simple or easy." Bear these "custodians and interpreters of current policies" no "animosity," he pleads. They're doing their best.

Act two; while pleading for tolerance of the Coldwell leadership in their continual compromises to capitalist pressure, he waves the charge of disloyalty in front of their opponents. The situation, he remonstrates, "calls for a measure of discipline..." on the part of Coldwell's critics, just before he swings into song about the great "opportunities for discussion and analysis" that exist in the CCF press and the party itself. What will be the reaction of the thousands of CCFers who have registered their opposition to the Atlantic War Pact in provincial conventions only to see the CCF M.P.'s, in the face of this known opposition and without any consultation with the membership, go down the line with the Liberal and Tory parties on the pact?

*Unity Through Democratic Discipline* or freely transcribed *Submission to the Leaders*. The ranks must discipline themselves and be united behind the CCF parliamentarians who have a free hand. In Ontario, Charles Mil-

lard and two other CCF M.P.'s opposed a proposal that persons desiring to be married should be able to choose a civil marriage. Self-discipline, "unity" for the rank and file, while the Ontario CCF parliamentary fraction splits down the middle on the Sunday Sports Bill. CCF Saskatchewan Premier Douglas lays down the law "if any convention asks the government to go back on its promises (to the oil monopolists—Ed.) there will be another leader of the CCF in this House." So discipline yourselves, CCF ranks!

Many CCFers who stand loyal to working class principles, seeking a medium for the expression of their ideas, have submitted material to *Labor Challenge*. Is Mentz giving them a taste of what charge they may be in for if they don't subordinate themselves to the CCF top brass?

Act three: Mentz smears *Labor Challenge*. It "is part of the psychological political warfare against the CCF"... a "smudge." He likens it to the siren voice of Tokyo Rose. *Labor Challenge* tries to gain your confidence, he warns, only in order to betray you into the hands of the enemy. It's the old Stalinist lie—Trotskyists, regardless of their words and deeds, are fascists—are agents of the deepest dyed reaction. Coming from Mentz we do not find this too disturbing for we note that he takes more than this from the arsenal of Stalinism. He labels our political analysis of Stalinist treachery "vitriolic slamming."

The CCF left, dozens of whom are subscribing to *Labor Challenge* through sample mailings, testifying to its wide scope, will not be deterred in its struggle for a socialist policy by velvet talk that covers a blackjack.

## Quite a Different Tune

With an industrial output and a skilled labor force second only to that of the United States, with a war-short home market, sitting on the top of a heap of devastated battle-groggy nations, Canadian Big Business at the close of the war thought that the world was its oyster.

Free enterprise, that's what they all cried. We need a return to freedom from restrictions and restraints, so everyone can prove his worth. No government interference—it destroys initiative, the moral fibre of a community and a country. The secret of progress is no interference, no spoon-feeding by the state. Let the race go the swiftest.

But now what a difference! It didn't take long for the textile trusts to get the government to swing a wall into position against cheap Japanese textiles. As long as Britain absorbed Canadian cheese, wheat, apples and was an ineffective competitor in the Canadian market, everything was fine. Businessmen formed committees to promote a closer understanding, more trade, etc. But now listen to them cry for an anti-dumping duty against British cars. Something has to be done, cry the railway moguls suffering "unfair competition" from trucks costing 100 million a year.

When it suits them they do not hesitate to demand that the public trough be thrown open for them to root in. Take over watered stock as in the case of the CNR, rescue bankrupt capital as in shipping, grant vast loans such as the 7½ million to Dosco, pump up the economy with lush war orders. And as the crisis gets deeper prepare for the blood and iron of the police state.



By ROSS DOWSON

The Canadian working class and its organization is quite young. This was brought home with startling clarity the other day when the press reported the death, while still employed, of the first apprentice to join Local No. 1 of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants Union of North America.

But while it is very young, and in this sense inexperienced, this does not by any means signify that the Canadian workers have yet to go through all the gruelling experiences that their European brothers have and are going through before achieving their manifest destiny—socialism. Here too Trotsky's law of combined and uneven development comes into play.

While it took the British working class well over 100 years of ebbing and flowing struggle to reach sufficient maturity to build the massive Labor Party, the Canadian workers, entering the scene in the period of capitalist decline, have brought the CCF to its present level of development within a decade or so. Hundreds of thousands of Canadian workers in the past 8 or 9 years have stepped forth from the rawest state of unorganization into the highest form of unionism expressed in the industrial organization of the CIO-CCF.

The British workers have their Tolpuddle Martyrs, the struggle for the Great Charter, the 1926 General Strike; the American workers have their Haymarket, their Home-Steved, the great CIO organization drive and its sit-downs, all marking milestones, turning points in their development, fraught with lessons, ever sources of inspiration and experience. But what have the Canadian workers . . . what great traditions do they possess, to point to, to demonstrate their strength, their heroism, their ingenuity?

Few workers of this generation know anything about a great event that took place this month 31 years ago. It's mentioned now and then. Each year Stanley Knowles, CCF M.P. for Winnipeg Center, calls upon the House to restore the pension rights of the railway workers who were penalized by the railway bosses for a struggle 31 years ago. It was in the air during the 1945 Ford strike when Local 195 joined their brothers on the picket line and one-day sympathy strikes broke out in a rash across Ontario. It hasn't been forgotten because it's supposed to be forgotten, it's always there lurking the memory, frightening the trade union bureaucrats. Engrave these words in your mind, take

them to your heart and never forget—the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919.

1919, Winnipeg, third largest city in the country, population 170,000. For 41 event-packed days, this Canadian city, gateway to the West, was in the grip of a general strike. For 41 days City Council did not administer the city but a committee composed of the executive of the Trades and Labor Council, 5 members from the council and 3 delegates from each union—the working people, they ran the city.

May, Winnipeg 1919. Cost of living since 1914 up 80 per cent., wages up only 18 per cent. The postal workers have grievances of over a year's standing. Street car conductors are still waiting for a report from a Royal Commission. The Metal Trades are on strike for shorter hours (a 9-hour day), a wage increase and recognition. The Building Trades Council, representing 1,400 workers, has been negotiating for a 20-cent increase since February and wants recognition. On May 1 they struck.

On May 6 both the building and metal trades workers appeal to the 12,000 strong Labor Council for support. Without one dissenting vote the Council takes up the call for a general sympathy strike and asks all affiliates to vote on the question. Next week's Council meeting records a partial count of 8,667 for and only 645 against.

Thursday, May 15—the deadline—silence in the factories, not a street car clanks through the streets. Over 24,000 are on strike, 95 unions, 100 per cent. strong. Even the police (with a vote of 149 to 11) support the strike but remain on duty upon the appeal of the newly constituted Strike Committee. Waterworks employees go back to maintain sufficient pressure for domestic use on the Committee's request. Staffs are supplied for hospitals. The Committee meets with the frightened City Council to plan milk and bread distribution—the delivery carts tour the city with large signs—BY AUTHORITY OF THE STRIKE COMMITTEE.

The Women's Labor League sets up a kitchen, financed by donations and collections taken at mass meetings, to feed striking girls free and supply them with funds for room rent. Anyone without

funds and with a ticket from the Strike Relief Committee is given free meals—1,200 to 1,500 meals are served daily.

Jubilant mass demonstrations fill the streets, rallies jam the parks. All Winnipeg rejoices in its power and solidarity. The workers want news and they want their comrades to know about their struggle. But the pressmen are on strike. The union supplies volunteers to print Western Labor News (WLN), a daily paper under the supervision of an editor and a censor committee appointed by the Strike Committee. A committee of four are struck off to send messages to the NEW YORK CALL to ensure that accurate information goes out to the world.

The May 27 issue of WLN boasts that the strike is 35,000 strong, complete order reigns over the city. But the employers are organizing their forces around the so-called Citizens Committee of 1,000. They are desperately trying to find support for their campaign against the metal and building trades workers and now the entire working population of Winnipeg. They look to the veterans, many of whom have returned to find no work. Two thousand just four months ago demonstrated in Market Square, raided the Socialist Party headquarters and led a two-day riotous demonstration against "foreigners" ending with a march demanding that all employers fire alien workers.

The leaders of three Veteran's organizations call a united mass meeting to line up the vets against the strike and behind the Committee of 1,000. To their chagrin the vets howl down the resolution, declare their support of the strike and quickly elect delegates to the Strike Committee.

The workers of America are breathlessly, anxiously, watching. They send their heartfelt greetings of solidarity. The Minneapolis Trades and Labor Assembly sends fraternal greetings. The Seattle Central Labor Council, which only three months ago conducted an inspiring five-day general strike, not only sends a message of solidarity but its secretary, James Duncan, who is greeted by a crowd of 10,000 at Victoria Park, all anxious to hear The Inside Story of the Seattle General Strike.

Railwaymen in almost every

town in the West are out in sympathy with Winnipeg. The pages of Western Labor News record the widespread struggles shaking Canada from coast to coast, the mass sympathy for Winnipeg. Montreal Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers have taken a unanimous vote in support of Winnipeg. May 20—the Calgary Trades and Labor Council threatens; "In the event of any troops being brought into Winnipeg or martial law being proclaimed . . . there won't be a wheel turning between Winnipeg and Vancouver." A general strike closes down Amherst, N.S.

May 20, Toronto.—A conference was held today by Mayor Church and business officials with Labor Council representatives to attempt to prevent a threatening general strike. A vote for strike is understood to be 17,700 for, 6,250 against. Metal Trades workers are already on strike. May 27—a wire to Winnipeg from the Toronto head of the Metal Trades union; "Hold fast—General Strike called 10 a.m. Wednesday." May 28—41 unions in Calgary walk out. June 2—42 unions out in Vancouver. On June 7 Vancouver informs the Winnipeg Strike Committee, which has been co-opting delegates from outside points to keep itself better informed, that the whole waterfront is tied up and the city is expected to be out within 48 hours. June 23—5,000 Victoria metal trades workers strike in sympathy with Winnipeg.

Ottawa, through Arthur Meighen, then Minister of Justice, and Senator Robertson, puts the heat on federal employees. Robertson calls a meeting of all postal employees but the meeting is boycotted. He hands them an ultimatum to return to work on May 26, to never again take part in a strike, to sever all connections with the TLC—or lose their jobs, their pensions and their right to ever again work on a government job. Only 16 return to work.

On June 6 the House of Commons amends the Immigration Act in record time. The amendment is read for the third time and given the Governor-General's assent in less than 40 minutes. The amendment makes it possible for the authorities to try British-born Canadians in secret, without the ac-

→ to p. 2

## One of the Most Glorious Pages in the History **WINNIPEG GENERAL**



*of Labor's Struggle for a Better World***STRIKE OF 1919**

cused being present at the enquiry, no real court, trial by jury or appeal to any judge or court—and deport them to the land of their birth. There are rumours that it is being passed so it can be used against the strike leaders. Military District 10's Officer-in-Command Brigadier Ketchen told a respectable gathering of Winnipeg citizens that undesirables are going to be dealt with.

The Police Commission has instructed the police to sign a pledge that they will not join any sympathetic strike or affiliate to any labor body. None sign—all are fired. The City hires police at \$6 a day who are going around in patrols of 6 men. An armoured car has been rushed into the city.

On May 30 a demonstration of 2,000 vets call on Premier Norris to demand that the cabinet pass an act making collective bargaining compulsory. On June 2 ex-soldiers march on parliament again. The Committee of 1,000 rigs counter demonstrations composed of persons who would lose their jobs otherwise.

On June 6 Mayor Gray swears in hundreds of special constables. Parades are banned. The workers hold fast. Police provoke incidents—rumours spread of the arrest and possible deportation of the strike leaders. Provincial police begin to pour into the city.

June 16, a day like any of the other days of the past few weeks for the strike leaders; meetings, rallies, handling suggestions, beefs, hurried meals, sleep—when suddenly—bangs on the door. Open up ... three or four red-coated Royal North-West Mounted Police, with guns and loaded riding whips, burst their way in on startled leaders of the Strike Committee. Armstrong, Ivens, Russell, Bray, Heaps, Queen and five other workers are whisked off in high-powered limousines to Stony Mountain Penitentiary.

They are charged with seditious libel and conspiracy to overthrow the government, case remanded eight days, no bail. The prisoners don't have to worry about a solicitor; A. J. Andrews, chief mouthpiece of the Citizens Committee of 1,000, this time in the role of Deputy Minister of Justice, points out; "under the amended Order-in-Council the Board will have power to deport the accused immediately."

Five hundred special police and 50 RNWMP raid labor halls, seizing files, records, books.

Protests stream in from everywhere. New Westminster June 18 comes out on general strike in protest of the arrest of the Winnipeg leaders. Jack Kavanagh, leader of the 15-day-old Vancouver general strike states that now the strike will spread to unorganized labor. Calgary calls for a Dominion-wide strike. The British Labor Party conference at Southport protests the attempt of the Canadian government to secretly deport British-born leaders of Winnipeg labor. Union after union, local after local, is calling upon the Dominion Labor Congress for one-day strikes, an indefinite general strike. President Tom Moore is silent.

Under the mass pressure of the labor movement the government releases all the British-born prisoners on bail—on the surety that they will take no part in the strike. give no interviews, or make any speeches. The five foreign-born workers are not granted bail and are to be proceeded against under the amended Immigration Act.

Saturday, June 21, the Veteran's Committee calls for a massive silent protest parade. The parade forms up on Main Street near the City Hall. It is just ready to move off when 50 mounted men—half in khaki, half RNWMP, swinging baseball bats, gallop onto Main Street. They are riding, bats flailing, right down onto the crowd. The parade opens up, let's them through, then closes. The RNWMP, less the troops, reform opposite the old post office. They charge, revolvers drawn, right into the crowd, firing as they rip into its ranks. One worker is murdered, 30 are injured, over 100 are arrested. Lines of special police are immediately thrown across Main Street and intersecting thoroughfares. The Red Coats declare the city under military control. Khaki clad troops, with rifles and fixed bayonets, are posted at street corners.

The Department of Justice orders a ban on the Strike Committee's Western Labor News, edited upon Ivens' arrest by a J. S. Woodsworth who had come into the city a few days previously. Woodsworth, later to become founder of the CCF, is arrested for seditious libel for the

publication of two verses from the Book of Isaiah. F. J. Dixon tries to carry on with the publication of the Western Star but is arrested. The Committee continues with publication of the *Enlightener*.

The June 25th *Enlightener* appears. The Strike Committee announces its decision to call the strike off tomorrow at 11 a.m. Many oppose the committee's action until the various unions have had a chance to vote on the question. For over a week thousands refuse to give in. The official history prepared by the Defence Committee tersely reports as the reasons for calling the strike to a halt (1) funds have run out (2) purported recognition by the employees of the Metal Trades Council (3) government promises to ensure re-instatement of all strikers.

And so the 41-day general strike came to a close. Obviously such a strike, paralyzing not only Winnipeg but all the key centers in the West, had to soon find the limit of its duration—it either had to terminate as a mighty demonstration against the bosses or to take on new and broader aims. But how to explain it—its duration, its determination and scope?

The government, its courts, the jacked Committee of 1,000, all, charged the strike as being an attempt at revolution and its leaders with being agents of the Kaiser or at the opposite pole, the Bolsheviks—of Lenin and Trotsky. It is true, of course, that the Russian Revolution and the struggles of the German Spartacists under Luxemburg and Leibknecht were a tremendous source of inspiration to the strikers and certainly the leaders. But it was no revolution nor even an attempt at revolution, either secret or overt.

The strike came in the wake of demobilization. The outlook for the future, with thousands of returned men looking for jobs, war plants closing, looked dark. Living costs had been skyrocketing. With the close of the war the pressure for wage increases, which had been stemmed by patriotic appeals, burst through. At the same time the war profit-fat bosses were lining up for an open shop campaign.

Winnipeg and the West were high spots in class consciousness and union solidarity. Understanding the true nature of the Metal

and Building Trades struggle the workers there took upon themselves to meet the assault head on. The ground for the sympathy struggles had already been prepared. There was rising recognition of the need for industrial mass organization of labor. This culminated with the March 1919 Calgary convention where the western affiliates of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress broke away to form the One Big Union (OBU). The Calgary convention, which seated 237 delegates, was the outcome of the failure of Western labor at the Quebec Convention to carry any of its eight resolutions, all generally calling for a referendum on industrial reorganization of the craft TLC, as well as its demand that the Congress take immediate "steps to promulgate a 6-hour day and a 5-day week for all labor in the Dominion so as to assist in absorbing the surplus labor and safeguard against unemployment." Besides reconstituting themselves as the OBU the representatives of the former western TLC affiliates passed a resolution calling for a general strike on June 1st for the 30-hour week.

The stirring events abroad also lay the basis for the firmness of the strike and its far-flung support. The Calgary Convention, along with other resolutions such as a statement on the superiority of soviet government to present forms of government and its hailing of the struggle of the Spartacists and Bolsheviks, called for a general strike on June 1 "should the Allies persist in their attempts" to interfere in these struggles.

Many of the leaders of the Winnipeg Strike, who were also prominent at the Calgary convention, were leftists of a definite Marxist character. Pritchard, Armstrong and Russell were members of the Socialist Party which at that time was in the process of producing some of the forces which were later to organize the Communist Party. While they did not possess a revolutionary program of action such as we possess today, despite the immaturity of revolutionary forces they did much to give the struggle its elan and its fervor.

The Winnipeg Strike marked the first vital appearance of the labor movement onto the Canadian scene. It was a big step in breaking the deadly grip of craft unionism and the development of industrial unionism which finally arrived in the late thirties. Today the Canadian labor movement stands out as a good deal more mature. The battles it faces are far more gigantic and far more serious.

The assimilation of the lessons of Winnipeg will be a guarantee of victory.

# WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

## Labor Challenge

Revolutionary Workers Party Canadian Section, 4th International

Vol. VI No. 6 (83)

MID-JUNE, 1950

Price: 5 cents

### Bay Street's "Peace" Plan

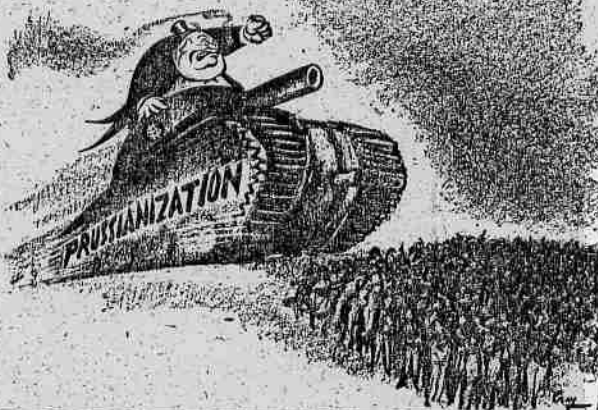
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## BC IWA Ditches Forsey Solid Behind Demand

By R. THORNE

Vancouver, June 5. — B.C. lumberworkers organized in the I.W.A. District No. 1, in the closing days of May and the first days of June, gave a rousing demonstration of their solidarity and will to fight in the face of an amazing development. Dr. E. Forsey, highly touted research director of the CCL, the IWA nominee on a Conciliation Board, signed his name to its unanimous "report" which completely flouted the union's demands and was, in effect, a "bosses' document."

This stunning surprise aroused all sections of the IWA and resulted in a stirring consolidation of the workers' ranks. Overwhelming votes of the membership, by secret referendum ballot have re-

insisted on introducing discussion of the hours of work clauses. The bosses proposed that the present loosely defined forty-hour work week be maintained but that from April till October a 48-hour weekly schedule would apply in logging operations with overtime rates for work in excess of forty hours. The IWA countered with the proposal that the work week should be defined as one of forty hours worked Monday through Friday with all work performed on Saturday or Sunday to be paid at overtime

hour IF THE WORKERS PLEASE A SIXTH SHIFT forty hours! Automatic action on any differences of opinion of contract provided two-year contract!

The bosses' document fro to finish. AND FORSEY IT WITHOUT EVEN COING THE UNION POLICY COMMITTEE! He did check it with the committee after it and immediately climbed a plane and screamed "Eilat."

Rank and file members out full strength to the meetings called by all cons to consider the Conciliation Award and the recommen of the Policy Committee

## THE BIG BRASS INCREASE GRIP OVER COUNTRY

By ROSE DOWSON

Under the guise of bringing up to date, consolidating and modernizing military law and defence legislation, Canada's Top Brass has jammed through the house a whole series of amendments that tremendously increase its powers and mark a gigantic step forward in its drive to Prussianize this country and fasten onto it a military-police state.

So rapidly were they shot through the house that Tory A. L. Smith remarked "I just blew my nose, Mr. Chairman, and lost 12 sections"—12 sections were passed. The Liberals and Tories mechanically OKed every demand of the Big Brass. But for one or two impotent protests the CCF M.P.'s also knuckled under with Gillis reprimanding Wright for his hesitation in accepting one of the revisions.

The army is now completely free of parliamentary control to determine its own strength. At one blow the Big Brass ditched a statute taken over from British law which parliament won 300 years ago to assure that a king could not raise a big army to tyrannize them. The sole remaining control that parliament has left is control of appropriations—a pitiful curb is confronted with swollen ranks of fire-breathing militarists with vast forces at their disposal.

For the first time Canadian military law spells out the offense of sedition, making it punishable up to life imprisonment. The new clause can be swung into action against "every person who publishes or circulates any writing, printing or document," which the Big Brass' own private courts determine, "advocate, the use, without the authority of law, of force as a means of accomplishing any governmental change within Canada. . . ." Anyone who knows the Big Brass knows that their conception of sedition is anything that their authoritarian mind does not accept.

A Canadian Press dispatch reports that at the time this clause was going through committee "informed sources indicated that some members of the permanent forces have been quietly discharged" for what the militarists have declared seditious tendencies.

The new provisions strengthen the domination, and control of the

Top Brass all down the line. The powers of commanding officers in summary trials have been increased. The powers of courts martials, so notorious in the memory of Canadian vets, have been increased. Punishment authority of army and airforce commanding officers have been toughened to bring them into line with the navy. The infamous catch-all Section No. 40, used in much the same way as the police use the vagrancy charge, remains on the books, changed only in number. Pack drill, a medieval form of torture practised by the officer caste, isn't abolished—it is neither provided for nor excluded. A clause allowing demotion of an officer as a punishment has been put through. During a period of rapid expansion such as the militarists are beating the drums for, many lower ranks are swept up into commissions. The Big Brass will now be able to rectify any errors that get past advance screening boards.

Under the Militia Act youth under 18 could not join or be inducted into the army. In the new regulation there is no age limit, thus the way is open for whole new layers of teen-aged youth to be swept into the maw of the militarists. The new regulation also eliminates the specification of 30 days annual service for reserve forces—it eliminates the time provision completely.

You don't have to be a seer to know what this all adds up to—the military are making all the detailed preparations for an iron rule over the lives of the Canadian people—the last detailed preparations for dictatorship and war.

In fact they never ceased thinking in these terms with the end of the last war. Their plans to increase their hold over Canadian life, following the last holocaust, were rudely shattered by the "we want to go home" demonstrations of Canadian airforce and army men overseas, by the widespread opposition to conscription at home and

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WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

# LABOR CHALLENGE

(83) Mid-June 1950 - Page 2

the war-wearied, regulation-sickened population, backed by a rising, militant, trade union movement.

Things will be different this time, they hope. They are now winning increasing support from the ranks of Big Business.

Last January Defence Minister Claxton received at a special luncheon, delegates of the Conference of Defence Associations, an organization composed of war-time army officers ranging in rank from major-general to lieutenant-colonel, to hear General H. D. G. Crerar, retired chief of the First Canadian Army in Europe. This mysterious civilian body of ex-military officials, now serving in the reserve army, has extensive influence in high circles of both government and industry.

Another of their outfits is the Industrial Preparedness Association, headed by a Major-General G. B. Howard, acting supposedly as a liaison service between industry and the armed forces. Maj. Gen. Howard, in a speech to the Ottawa branch of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, outlined his preparedness plan which contains provisions, among others, for "control of all labor, and allotment of manpower to the service, war and civilian production" and "adequate contractual and financial arrangements for 183 of this country's key industries associated with his organization.

Not only do they have the plans but they have been working hard to prepare the climate for their

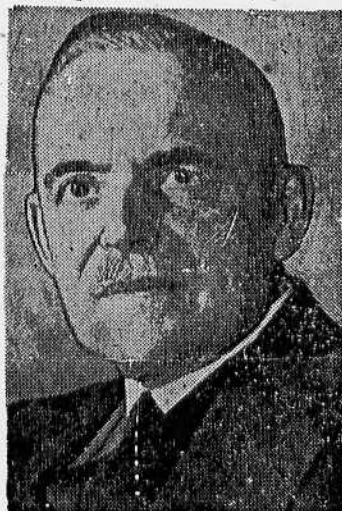
successful realization. General Crerar last year stumped the country for peacetime compulsory military training. Major-General Worthington, now co-ordinator of civil defence, has been attempting to whip up a war spirit by proposing immediate training of civil defence guards. An April 10 CP dispatch remarks that Defence Minister Claxton turned a cold douche on this feeler in the belief that the time is not yet ripe. "He is understood to hold . . . it would be premature. His fear is that after a couple of years such an organization would begin to wither away because interest would wane."

General McArthur voiced the disappointment of Atlantic Pact high-ranking militarists last month when he observed that the people of the world are not psychologically prepared for war. "The people neither desire nor would they be willing to permit it." The Big Brass still has this work to do.

One thing that the streamlining of the defence regulations has revealed with startling clarity is that parliament is no barrier at all to the Big Brass' vicious campaign to wipe out every last element of democracy that exists in this country. On the contrary the Liberals and Tories are in open alliance with them—the CCF M.P.'s are an impotent opposition.

The 800,000 working people who voted CCF should call a halt to this traitorous course followed by the CCF M.P.'s — the logic of the parliamentary caucus' support of the Marshall Plan and the Atlantic War Pact.

Above all on the order of the day is placed the demand of the Revolutionary Workers Party that the war-making powers must be taken out of the hands of parliament—that the people alone must vote on the issue of war or peace.



PAL OF THE BIG BRASS.

06-15-16



WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

# LABOR CHALLENGE

## FLOOD VICTIMS DEMAND GOVT. COMPENSAT'N

By PAUL KANE

The murky waters are sluggishly receding, falling back into channels and banks to become the Red River again. The 100,000 odd men, women and children who were able to leave the Winnipeg area are coming back to the scene of desolation.

Wanton, heartbreaking destruction! hundreds of homes totally ruined, 10,500 damaged, scores of barns washed away, livestock drowned, trucks, cars, completely wrecked. Half a million acres of farmland inundated (most of it will be cropland this year). Prized personal possessions of thousands; home furnishings scraped together through years, through a lifetime of toil—a rotten sodden mass—worthless.

The waters curled and buckled up floors, rotted plaster, hideously marked drapes and wall paper. And the same waters scored the criminal negligence of government officials who could have prevented the flood from wreaking its terrible toll; their cynical, calloused, indifference to those who now taste the bitter fruit of their negligence. The flood waters carved deep in the minds of Winnipeggers, lessons that will not be forgotten. As a passing-through journalist for the daily press cautiously summed it up: "The government of Premier D. L. Campbell is in trouble with nearly everybody you meet. There is a feeling that he failed to take flood control measures. There is an even graver feeling that he is stalling on flood relief. When the danger was real, Winnipeggers were superb. Anyone who attempts to shove them around from now on, however, had better watch himself."

### PITIFUL GESTURE

Flood damage has been estimated all the way from \$200 million to the \$50 million set by the Manitoba government. Ottawa has finally been moved to action. Now, weeks after the flood, the government has asked the house to approve an interim vote for \$12½ million. A government commission has set property damage, flood fighting costs, at little more than \$25 million.

What a pitiful gesture! The commission's estimate blandly ignores the loss in personal effects of the flood victims, their clothes, furniture, little personal treasures which many will never be able to replace through their own efforts. This problem the commission as-

sumes will be taken care of out of the Manitoba Flood Relief Fund, which on June 9th totalled only slightly more than \$4 million. This sum won't even scratch the surface.

Aside from showing that Ottawa has no intention of coming to the aid of Winnipeggers unless mass pressure is brought to bear the commission report contains, in a few terse paragraphs, facts of a startling character. Could the flood have been curbed from taking such a dreadful toll? Could it even have been prevented? The government and all their apologists have been trying to classify it as "an act of God," beyond the control of man.

But the commission reports emergency precautions against a recurrence would cost 2½ million. In other words a mere \$2½ million, if it had been spent prior to May 1950, would have at the very least curbed the flood so that damage would have been much less extensive.

Even more. The commission, by its finding that "complete flood protection" could not be brought into being for some time—perhaps five years, says in black and white that complete flood protection is and was possible.

### WERE WARNED

Only five years, red tape and all, and there could have been "complete flood protection." The flood was no unforeseen development. The Red has flooded many, many times — there have been seven major disasters in the past 125 years — one in 1904, another in 1916—there were bad floods in '47 and '48. But nothing was done, nothing but promises, lots of commissions, lots of talk, but no action.

Even as late as April 1948—2½ years ago—an International Joint Commission struck off an engineering board to investigate the Red River situation. Since then four progress reports have been turned in to Ottawa. On May 25, in the face of repeated requests from the floor, Defence Minister Claxton refused to call the Canadian members of the commission before a house committee.

D. M. Stevens, Manitoba deputy minister of natural resources.

(Continued on page 4)

## FLOOD

(Continued from page 1)

warned Premier Campbell in February of this year that such a flood was inevitable. In March, 1949, Winnipeg City Engineer W. D. Hurst, urged emergency flood-wall and levee projects pending a full report from the International Joint Commission costing less than \$1½ million.

Real estate interests palming off jerry built housing projects no doubt looked at all this talk with a jaundiced eye and pulled strings. Not under the pressure of big industrial interests who needed cheap power, or powerful fruit or dairy interests lobbying for irrigation or flood protection, none of the officials did anything but brush aside the warnings.

Winnipeg flood victims are now organizing to put pressure on the government to grant full compensation for all losses suffered. Every union, every fraternal organization, all, must join with them in their demand that relief must not be left to the hit or miss of charity but that the government meet all losses in full. There are millions for jet fighters, for atomic bombs—there is money to meet this pressing need. Mass pressure must be brought to bear for the immediate launching of projects that will make the floods that threaten and torment Winnipeggers a thing of the distant past.

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## LABOR CHALLENGE

Mid-June, 1950 (83)

06-15-3

LABOR CH

THE LPP AND BUCK'S  
HATE THE YANK DRIVE

By JEAN LaPLANTE

Hand in hand with the Peace (Ban the Bomb) Campaign through which it is fostering the illusion that there can be peace under the war breeding capitalist system, the Stalinist Labor Progressive Party is beating the drum for what it calls "Canadian Independence."

Its "Keep Canada Independent" campaign is in fact an integral part of its pacifist peace program and likewise glaringly exposes how completely Tim Buck and the LPP have deserted the path of Marxism-Leninism.

The LPP is now super patriotic, the true defender of "our national sovereignty and independence" of our "outraged national pride." The big enemy of the Canadian workers now is Wall Street—the Canadian capitalist class are opponents of the Canadian workers only in so far as they collaborate with American capitalism—this is the treacherous non-class line being peddled by Tim Buck and the Canadian and Pacific Tribunes.

It has its lighter aspects, its absolutely ludicrous moments—for instance, this choice tid-bit from a current mass distribution brochure by Buck; "The No. 1 tune in our Hit Parade is O Canada! and we believe we Canadians—together—can sing it loud enough and well enough to keep our country independent, in the control of its own people, and out of war. What we need to do is all sing in the same key at the same time." The more we are together, J. S. MacLean and the packinghouse workers, H. R. MacMillan and the lumberworkers, with the country in the hands of such good red-blooded Canadian stock, singing O Canada!, the happier Buck will be.

No matter how reactionary our own home grown reactionaries are, they are always outdone, always subservient to, not quite as bad as, Wall Street's reactionaries. Thus February 20th Tribune contends that Monseigneur J. Charbonneau was retired by Pope Pius XII not just on the request of Duplessis, but police-stater Duplessis had to be hopped-up to do the job through "previous talks with representatives of the U.S. government."

Prices are going up. Perhaps you are laboring under the illusion that it's due in part at least to Canadian meat trust profiteering, to Cana-

dian steel trust price gouging. You are wrong according to Charles Sims, TRIBUNE foreign affairs specialist, in his May 29th column. It's "due to the domination of U.S. big business over our country." We (I suppose he means our "good" bosses) sell "at cut rate prices," it seems. But . . . "check on those things that Canadians buy, which are controlled by the U.S.—and you will find that you'll pay all that the traffic can bear!"

Even our hatred for the red-baiting trade union bureaucracy who have launched a series of expulsions and raids in both the TLC and CCL, even this must be tempered. According to trade union expert Salsberg in November 7th Tribune the whole thing . . . "the immediate source of danger lies in the U.S." . . . it is "being mixed in the CIO convention cauldron." It would seem that Mosher and Conroy, do not have sufficient initiative or are not reactionary enough to open up with expulsions and raids without the prompting of Murray and the U.S. State Department. Salsberg calls upon us to "halt the virulent plague of union splitting at the border!" We recall that the CSU was tossed out by the TLC, the UE leadership and Mine Mill suspended from the CCL-CIO, here in Canada long before the US-CIO convention.

Of course it is not our purpose to make light of the vast influence that Washington and Wall Street exert on Canadian social, cultural, economic and political affairs. A major part of the globe is in hock or subservient to American imperialism. But that does not transform such countries as Britain, France, Italy, or Canada into colonial or backward countries. Canada is fully capitalistic with workers' parties that are really the vanguard of the proletariat.

If American imperialism controls 37 per cent. of all capital in Canadian industry, Canadian imperialism is likewise a mighty power with millions invested in the West Indies, Mexico, Argentina, Spain, where it ruthlessly exploits the masses. Within the limits of its resources Canada too is a prop of international reaction—of Dutch imperialism in Indonesia, of Chiang in China.

While this or that section of Canadian capital may suffer through the pressure and demands of American or British capital, the Canadian capitalist class as a whole, who rule this country, (no one else does) are identifying

their interests more completely and ever more consciously with those of Wall Street. In so doing, from their own class viewpoint, they are quite correct. Canadian capitalism has no future at all except as a junior partner of Wall Street. It stands and it will fall with Wall Street, just as Canadian labor, its whole present and its glorious future, is completely wrapped up with the colossal organized might of U.S. labor.

Lenin, the proletarian internationalist, called for ruthless war on all tendencies in the labor movement that give "recognition of internationalism in words, and substitute for it in deeds, in all propaganda, agitation and practical work, petty-bourgeois nationalism, and pacifism . . ." The LPP policy is only a particularly vulgar form of petty bourgeois nationalism which in Lenin's words "declares the recognition of the equality of nations, and nothing else, to be internationalism, while preserving intact national egoism . . ." Lenin, talking about the traitorous parties of the Second International, did not foresee, did not think possible, a worker's party so profoundly degenerate that its crime is not just that of "preserving intact national egoism" but in the case of the Stalinist LPP attempting to create a national egoism which scarcely exists in the ranks of the Canadian working people in relation to the U.S.

Lenin warned that such policies lead inevitably to the support of capitalism. And Buck himself draws that inevitable conclusion from all his professional flag-waving and patriotism for us. Socialism is no longer even the professed aim of the LPP, it is relegated to the far distant future. A worker's and farmer's government isn't necessary. St. Laurent will do, with a little pressure.

Mr. St. Laurent could say . . . if we would make him," says Buck. "Look, Mr. Truman, we don't like the policies of your government. We don't want any part of your cold war . . . we don't want your boom and bust economy over here. When your stock market crashes and your factories start closing down because of your dog-in-the-manger attitude towards the rest of the world, we want to have a few customers of our own . . . We believe (that the people of Canada) don't like Yankee or any

other foreign domination. We believe they can change the policy of our government."

Bruce Mickleburgh, in the LPP theoretical journal, makes it also equally clear. There is no need for Canadian labor to join hands with the international labor movement, above all the American workers, to throw capitalism off our backs: "peace, freedom and security" (all this can be won now, J.L.) "through independence from the Yankee trusts."

What does the LPP hope to achieve by this treachery? The answer to this question lays bare the whole character and role of this party. The hate the Yankee campaign commenced with the break-up of the wartime alliance between the Kremlin and Western capitalism. Since then Buck and company have been putting all their efforts, and manipulating the workers at their disposal, into an attempt to patch up this rift.

Buck is holding out the olive branch to St. Laurent and the Liberal Party. He wants to return to the old wartime alliance. Remember the 1945 elections when the LPP did yeoman service for the Liberals by running opposition to all CCF candidates.

As the Yugoslavs have learned, the international Stalinist movement under the Kremlin, no longer has as its objective the socialist revolution, but under the guidance of such faithfuls as Buck, serves only as a pawn in the Kremlin's maneuvers with world imperialism. The Kremlin no less than Wall Street fears the march of the workers towards socialism for success will spell the end of its bureaucratic privileges and its autocratic rule over the Russian workers.

Thus, subservient to the Kremlin, from a party of anti-capitalism the LPP has become a prop and propagandist for capitalism. One of the primary tasks on the road to socialism is the brushing aside into the garbage can of history the Labor Progressive Party of Tim Buck.



# LABOR CHALLENGE

A monthly paper bringing the truth about labor's struggle for socialism to the working people of Canada.

Published by

THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY,  
87 KING ST. W., ROOM 5, TORONTO 1, ONT.—ELGIN 9613

Editor, ROSS DOWSON

Subscription: 50 cents for one year subscription (12 issues)

The policy of Labor Challenge is reflected in its editorials. Signed articles and features express the ideas of our contributors and do not necessarily represent the policies or opinion of Labor Challenge.

Set up and printed by Merchants Press, 323 King St. W., Toronto.  
Authorized as Second Class mail by The Post Office Dept., Ottawa

Vol. VI, No. 6 (83)

Mid-June, 1950



The strength of Bolshevism consisted therein, that in Lenin's person it applied the materialistic method of analysis with the greatest theoretical honesty — not permitting any optimistic neglect to speak out what is, not permitting any consoling illusions—to all the problems of our epoch.

Leon Trotsky

## The Real Danger

Defense Minister Claxton, rising in the House of Commons the other day, indicated by his remarks that no overt act of disloyalty is necessary to bring discharge from any government department under modern cold war conditions.

*"There was no finding of guilt. I feel I have the responsibility of deciding whether the circumstances were such that it was not in the interests of the safety of the country that he be continued in a special kind of employment."*

With this brazen statement that he and he alone was to be the judge, Claxton defended the dismissal of an air force man from the service for alleged Communism, despite the fact that there was no proof nor had the man been given the opportunity to learn the charges that were brought against him or the opportunity to present his side of the case.

Claxton said the man was "screened in the ordinary way," and that he had decided on his dismissal.

Setting himself up with dictatorial powers to purge anyone from a department of the government or the armed forces, Claxton shows the real contempt that the capitalist stooges who sit in government offices have for the very democracy they profess to be defending.

Such high-handed actions on the part of the government together with its hysterical ravings about the "red menace to democracy" endanger the civil rights and liberties of all.

They only encourage and give the go-ahead signal to all hooligans and would-be fascists that they can intimidate and terrorize the public at large by their acts of rowdiness and violence without fear of government interference.

Encouraged, egged on by the house debate on Drew's proposal to ban the LPP, by snide remarks against the Dean of Canterbury; emboldened by Minister of External Affairs Pearson's attack on Dr. Endicott, mobs of hooligans broke up several meetings of the Stalinist dominated Peace Congress in Hamilton, Timmins, Calgary and other Canadian cities. We can see by these recent events that the real threat to democracy does not come from any other group or class in society than the capitalist class and their government hirelings who never hesitate to violate the most elementary democratic rights of the Canadian people when they suspect it may harm their class interests or class privileges.

## Their Friends

The capitalist politicians call everyone their friend, and when necessary there are promises of friendship galore, such as the Liberal's promises on pensions. Very few of these promises are ever kept—they're just sucker-bait. Those who fall for them are not the real friends of the Drews, St. Laurents or Trumans—just friends of the moment—useful friends.

Many, an ever increasing number, are seeing through it all—the friendship is wearing thin as the gap between promise and performance widens. We sometimes wonder that they have any friends left at all. But they do have friends—friends who can really rely on their promises.

Take Truman's for instance; former Mayor James M. Curley of Boston and his partner, D. W. Smith, were found guilty of using the mail to defraud to the tune of \$60,000 and sentenced to jail for eighteen months. The newspapers made the case too hot to handle for a while but pal Truman didn't forget, for five months later he commuted their sentences.

Last week he announced "full and unconditional pardon" for these crooks, restoring their civil rights so they can take back their rightful places in the political machine.

Curley is the Tom Prendergast of Massachusetts, and a man like that can do things. Truman should know, for if it wasn't for Tom Prendergast he would never have set foot in the White House. At least he never forgot for when Tom Prendergast died he transferred his favors to his nephew and political heir, Jim Prendergast, who looks the man most likely to profit from the murder of Binaggio and Gargotta.

Binaggio was the most powerful figure in Kansas City politics, while his bodyguard Gargotta was high among Kansas City gangsters in the Tom Prendergast days. They became bigger than Prendergast's nephew, which apparently was a dangerous thing, for they died.

American politicians are not the only ones who can feel perfectly at ease with such friends as swindlers, ballot-box stuffers and gangsters.

Quebec's No. 1 criminal, a man named John Charles Young, who has been convicted of 15 charges in twelve years ranging from disturbing the peace to assault, and who had in his possession \$150,000 worth of heroin when last caught, acted as a bodyguard to Premier Duplessis in 1936.

The third probe in 25 years into Montreal city vice conditions involving the Montreal police has been set for September 1.

The inquiry was sparked by a document presented by Pacific (Pax) Plante, fired two years ago for insubordination while assistant police director, Plante charges 15,000 allegations of malfeasance, corruption and illegal conduct on the part of 60 members of the city council and police force.

Named in the document are a whole slew of big city politicians including the chairman of the city's executive committee J. O. Asselin; City Councillors Alfred Filion, Richard Quinn and Edmond Hamelin; and big shot in Duplessis' machine in the Quebec legislature, George Guevremont.

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WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

# LABOR CHALLENGE

(83) Mid-June 1950

06-15-5

## 4TH INTERNATIONAL EIGHTH PLENUM MEETS

The Eighth Plenum of the Executive Committee of the Fourth International was held somewhere in Europe on April 26-30, with delegates from European and Far-Eastern sections participating. For the first time an observer from colonial Africa was present.

The Eighth Plenum held its deliberations under an honorary presidium among whom were the Berlin militants Oskar Hippe and Walter Haas, now prisoners of Stalin's secret police, the Greek Trotskyists incarcerated at Makronissos, and the Bolivian Trotskyists who are being hounded following the great working class battles in their country.

The Eighth Plenum heard the report of the International Secretariat on its activity and on the progress of the International and its sections since the Seventh Plenum.

The political report stressed the big revolutionary perspectives opened up by the parallel crises of imperialism and Stalinism, which under the existing conditions tend to retard the outbreak of World War III. This report included an analysis of the world economic situation, an examination of the consequences of Mao Tse-tung's victory in China and an outline of the general tasks of the revolutionary movement in taking advantage of this new and especially favorable situation.

The report on the crisis of Stalinism and the development of the Yugoslav revolution gave a picture of the crisis in the Stalinist parties throughout the world, analyzed the causes of this crisis, traced the developments of the Yugoslav experience, and outlined the tasks for the building of revolutionary parties under these conditions.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Plenum adopted a resolution to the effect that following the victory of the proletarian revolution there exists in Yugoslavia a workers' state and a regime of the dictatorship of the proletariat in which the Yugoslav Communists are engaged in a struggle against bureaucratic deformations.

The report on colonial revolutions in Asia underscored the necessity for the International to reevaluate the significance of Mao Tse-tung's victory as the product of a powerful revolutionary movement of the peasant masses; and to understand the revolutionary perspectives which this victory opens up in the whole of Southeast Asia. In the light of this analysis the new tasks of the Fourth International in the Far East were defined.

The Plenum also adopted a resolution of solidarity with the Algerian people, victims of imperialist repressions.

## Oscar Coover Trotskyist, Dead

The American and the worldwide Trotskyist movement has lost one of its pioneers in Oscar Coover. A beloved and devoted fighter for socialism, Oscar died last month in a New York hospital after an illness of four months. Born in 1887 in Missouri he became a union man at a very early age and proudly remained one until his death. From 1916 to 1922 he was an active organizer of the railroad workers in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. He was blacklisted forever by the railway moguls for the leading role he played in a strike in 1922 and thereafter worked at his trade as a stagehand and on construction jobs.

He was highly skilled in his craft and had early risen to the position of chief electrician in the Minneapolis railway yards. But he consciously chose another path, one that led him to unemployment and hardship. In his early years he belonged briefly to the Socialist Party. In 1920 he joined the Communist Party, in the very midst of a terrible persecution by the government—the days of the Palmer Red-raids. From 1922 to 1928 he was on the district executive committee of the Communist Party of Minneapolis.

But true to the principles of Leninism, when the Stalinist degeneration set in, he joined with Vincent Dunne and others to demand that Leon Trotsky be heard in the Third International. They were expelled and formed the first group of American Trotskyism in the northwest. At their first public meeting Oscar was brutally beaten by an invading gang of Stalinists. A sure and trustworthy leader he was honoured by his comrades with a post on the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party. For intransigent opposition to imperialist war he, along with 17 other party leaders, was thrust into prison in the now famous Minneapolis case of 1944.

Oscar was a fighter to the last. Unbowed, unbroken by his own struggles, he was always a source of inspiration and encouragement, spurring on others by his own example.

He made the term Trotskyist a badge of proletarian honour. Salute!

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# Labor Challenge

Revolutionary Workers Party

Canadian Section, 4th International

VOL. VI, NO. 7 (84)

MID-JULY, 1950

Price: 5 cents

## PM COMMITS COUNTRY TO WAR

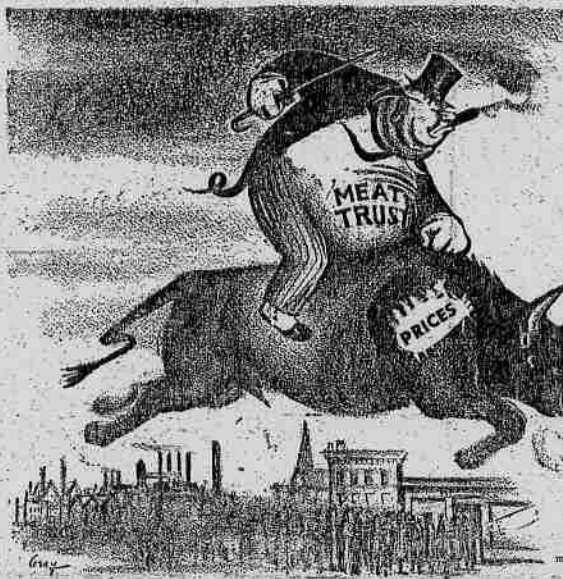
### Cost of Living Hits New High

#### Meat Profiteering Biggest Factor

The profit-fat meat trusts have driven the cost of living to a record high. The government index, which only reflects in a distorted way the extent of the gouge that is being made by the profiteers out of pay envelopes and pension checks, today stands at the peak figure of 165.4.

Chief factor in the boost is the jump of 6.3 cents a pound in fresh pork prices; 5.2 in beef and 4.4 in lamb. Government officials, who have never ceased to promise cuttings off and drops, do not hesitate to say that not only is there no relief in sight, in all probability there will be further rises in the next few months.

Only last year during the federal elections Finance Minister Abbott, appealing for re-election, boasted, "Under the Liberal Government our cost of living in Canada is being kept under control." Canada has been ruled by a Liberal government ever since the index set August, 1939, at 100. Within the passing of the year the index has soared almost 5 points. Under the Liberals, just as under Tories, the monopolists have had their steady diet of profits, leached from the skimpy tables of workers. Canadian steel companies are gulping up the biggest profits in their history. Stelco's net profits are almost 10 million, \$5 million more than the previous year. Doseco's net profits are over \$4 million, an increase over the previous year of over \$1 million. Noranda Mines in 1949 set its all-time high record for net



### GM Contract Opposition Feared by UAW Leaders

### Cdn. Ships Sent to Korea To Aid Wall Street Puppet

Taking his cue from the brazen and bold moves of the Truman government in Korea, Defense Minister Claxton ordered three Canadian destroyers to Pearl Harbor, where, masked by a UN flag, they will be placed under the command of the American military brass.

What is important here is not the size of the Canadian contribution to Wall Street's imperialist moves in Asia, but the eagerness shown by the Canadian government to commit the Canadian people to every stage of the cold war as it gets hotter.

When this move, which has committed Canada to an undeclared war, came before Parliament, it was met with approval and even praise not only by the Tory members but by the CCF M.P.'s. They didn't even consider it important enough to demand a vote. Meeting in the very midst of a crisis which one militarist has predicted will involve 100,000 men and last till next spring and which no one can say will not develop into the III World War, the House disbanded and the M.P.'s toddled home.

Simultaneously with the sending of the destroyers into the war zone it was announced that plans for civil defence were being laid out by the Canadian Cabinet. In Hamilton and other Canadian cities and towns air raid equipment is being mounted to add to the atmosphere of war hysteria.

The capitalist press, mimicking the press south of the border, has been making up for lost time in whipping the masses up into a war hysteria. Prime Minister St. Laurent has been echoing this war cry spewed forth in the press across the nation. In a series of speeches in Western Canada he has gone much further than he did in the House. At Fort Qu'Appelle he screamed Canada would fight no matter where Russia makes its next move.

These moves were taken amid the usual cries of defending democracy and the freedom of the South Koreans, even though it is admitted — even in the capitalist press — that the "corruption and brutality of the South Korean government was rivaled only by its

larger model the former nationalist government of Chiang Kai-shek.

Rhee's government was so discredited it had to persecute savagely even its most conservative opposition and polled only a small minority in the May elections. As late as June 27, Hannon Baldwin, military specialist of the New York Times, flatly stated that the "chief danger" to South Korea was "internal weakness rather than outside assault." He stressed the "unpopularity of the Syngman Rhee government . . . and the questionable political and military reliability of the army and the police force."

It is this government, hated by its own people and which even its own soldiers and police refuse to

→ (Continued on page 2) →

### First Cdn. Victim Of Korean War

TORONTO—First victim of St. Laurent's commitments in Truman's undeclared war in Asia has been marked up here. The victim's name — CIVIL RIGHTS. Taking advantage of the war hysteria police in the last week have broken up two street corner meetings.

Police broke up a meeting of 400 listening to Stewart Smith, ex-Toronto controller and chairman of the Stalinist Labor Progressive Party, and school trustee Sam Walsh, who were speaking on the war in Korea.

A July 2nd Sunday night street corner meeting held by the Union of Unemployed Workers was broken up by police and the union's banner confiscated along with a Peace Congress petition. The police went to work shortly after Mark Frank, frequent contributor to the Canadian Tribune had spoken on Korea. Instead of helping Wall Street bring "democracy" to Korea, St. Laurent's war moves are promoting the emergence of police state traits in Canada.

### UN Exposed as Tool Of US In Korean War

Five years ago the United Nations came into being in San Francisco. The behavior of the UN — a logical outcome of its whole evolution.

# LABOR CHALLENGE

(84) Mid-July 1950 - Page 2

## ST LAURENT COMMITTS COUNTRY

(Continued from page 1)

fight for, that Washington, with Ottawa's aid, is seeking to re-impose by resort to war.

Each side is now busy accusing the other of having provoked the Korean hostilities. It still remains to be seen just who did "provoke" whom, and the likelihood is that there was no lack of provocation on both sides.

According to a report in Saturday Night of May 9 covering an April broadcast by Syngman Rhee, Rhee threatened: "We shall recover North Korea even though some of our friends tell us we must not cherish the thought of attacking . . ." A missionary just returned from South Korea is quoted as saying in the Toronto Daily Star of June 26 that "The South Korean Army . . . was spoiling for a fight." From their own mouths the press gives the lie to the howl that it is now settling up about the innocence of the Wall Street puppet government in the South.

But the most important "provocation" is rooted in the dismembered condition of Korea itself whose living body has been severed in two, like Germany and Austria, and the European continent as a whole.

### YALTA SPAWNED

The division of countries into "spheres of influence" at Yalta by Roosevelt and the Kremlin was heralded as the surest basis and firmest guarantee of world peace. None were louder than the Stalinists in spreading this criminal lie. Stalin and his regime bear direct responsibility for the tragic plight in which the Korean people now find themselves.

The last world war was a predatory war which led to an equally predatory "peace", which in turn planted all the seeds of future conflict, among which is Korea.

Fisheries Minister Mayhew's remarks in the House of Commons that he would like to see Canada's business stake in the orient expanded give a clearer insight to Canada's rulers real aims in Korea and the basis of our collaboration with Wall Street than all the blather about Stalin's crimes against the masses and the defence of South Korean democracy.

As Wall Street's junior partner in the drive for world domination the Canadian monopolists would like a greater share in the profits in exchange for Canada's share in

the military adventures.

There is only one way in which the Korean question can really be solved and that is by permitting the Korean people to settle their own fate. Let them decide, free from both the Kremlin and from Washington.

### HANDS OFF KOREA

Neither side, of course, has the slightest intention of permitting this, in the UN even the moderate proposal by Yugoslavia that the North Koreans be allowed to present their case was voted down, obviously by command of Washington.

What the Kremlin proposes to do now about Korea remains unclear. It has proclaimed its "neutrality", that is, left open for itself an avenue of retreat. If they decide it best suits their interests and purposes, the Stalinist bureaucracy will try to convert Korea into the same sort of testing ground for war techniques and weapons as was the case in Spain before the last war.

Or they may ruthlessly sacrifice their own native puppets along with the whole Korean people, as they did not so long ago in the case of Greece. If they decide to reply in kind, even if on a far more modest scale than has been done by Washington, it means of course, world war.

But there is a power in the world today other than either the power of the ruthless American billionaires or of the monstrous Stalinist bureaucracy. That is the power of the mass of the people themselves. The example of Yugoslavia shows that it is possible for people even in a small country, caught in the very middle between these two giants to pursue a course independent of both.

### MUCH INVOLVED

The duty of the workers in this country is to see to it that the Korean people are given that chance, which they will never get unless the American imperialists are made to keep their hands off Korea.

Much more than Korea is actually involved: there are also the people of Formosa, of Indo-China and of the Philippines who are now confronted with the same threat of subjugation as the Koreans, even though in a different form.

The fate of these peoples is tied up directly with the issue of world peace of world war. The stormy movement of national liberation which has swept the whole of Asia has been one of the most powerful blocks in the way of the imperialist war makers. If they succeed in stemming and crushing the liberation movement in Asia, the American imperialists and all their allies will be all the more impelled to plunge into World War Three.



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Set up and printed by Merchants Press, 323 King St. W., Toronto.  
Authorized as Second Class mail by The Post Office Dept., Ottawa

Vol. VI, No. 7 (84)

Mid-July, 1950



It is absurd, unscientific, unhistorical to think that reaction will continue to unfold at the same gradual pace at which it has been accumulating hitherto. Reaction signifies this, that the social contradictions are mechanically suppressed. At a certain stage an explosion is inevitable. World reaction will be overthrown by the greatest catastrophe in world history, or, more correctly, by a series of revolutionary catastrophes... only one beacon will rise above the blood-drenched chaos—the beacon of Marxism.

Leon Trotsky

## None So Blind

There isn't a liberal with a small l nor a labor leader in the country who fails to make known his four square opposition to Stalin's slave labor camps, who isn't horrified by the fascistic color bars in South Africa, who doesn't protest in strident tones the status of negroes in the US and scorn the red baiting orgy that has been sweeping that country, who doesn't disapprove of the banning of the Communist Party by the Australian government.

No doubt they all subscribe to the UN Declaration of Human Rights, underwritten by all the above governments, and would gladly join a movement to protest all the above restrictions and restraints on democratic and civil rights.

But what-about Quebec, Duplessis and the Padlock Law? Last week a Quebec Superior Court ruled that the Padlock Law is a legally constituted enactment and within the powers of the Quebec Legislature. This law, passed by Duplessis in 1937 and left on the books by an interim Liberal Party government, permits the Attorney General and Premier Maurice Duplessis to padlock for one year any place that he may suspect or desire to designate as harboring communist activities.

Justice Collins, ruling on the case, declared that since there is no provision in the Criminal Code nor any law passed by parliament to make communism a crime or prohibit the propagation of communism therefore the field "is wide open for legislation by any province". The judge went further to declare his warm approval of the law: "The court cannot conceive of any local or private matter more of interest to the Province of Quebec as a matter of public order and good morals than to protect the province against communist propaganda", he commented.

It costs nothing to be a bitter opponent of thought control and reaction in South Africa, the Soviet Union or the United States. No risk and very little effort is required to make the record. But what about thought control and reaction at home. Not a whimper against this ruling on the Padlock Law has been heard. The padlocking of the UJPO Hall in Montreal was phenomenal for the lack of concern shown by liberal and labor circles.

Possibly they are all too busy swearing loyalty to St. Laurent's and Wall Street's struggle behind Rhee's "democracy" in South Korea.

07-15-2

## To Our New Readers

The June subscription campaign conducted by Toronto, Vancouver, and other branches of the Revolutionary Workers Party for *Labor Challenge* was very successful. To our two hundred odd new readers we extend a cordial welcome.

Many of you probably never read a paper even remotely like *Labor Challenge* before. Possibly when you subscribed you were a little doubtful about what you would ever get out of it. But we think you will find *Labor Challenge* the best investment that you ever made.

Our aim is to make Canada a land of plenty. This can be done by ousting the big bankers, the profiteers and their political hatchet men. Canadian industry can then be run at top capacity and expanded to pour out a flood of goods—enough for everybody to live a life of ease and comfort. A change over like that from capitalism to socialism will end the looming danger of another world war too, because socialism operates for peace, not war. In a Socialist Canada we can root out the evil prejudices that make life miserable for minority groups. End fear of poverty and insecurity—and jealousy, envy and hatred will wither away. All this and much more can be accomplished if we make Canada socialist.

*Labor Challenge* aims to help accomplish this. Our big job at present is to spread the truth about capitalism and its defenders, to show how practical socialism is and to help working people get organized to make the change-over. You can rely on *Labor Challenge* for the truth because there are no powerful financial interests behind us to order us to cover up the crimes of capitalism. We depend on the nickels, dimes and dollars of people like you to keep going.

Some of you may find it hard to understand everything in every article at first. Because we don't have much space, facts and ideas are often condensed. Besides, we don't look at things the same way the capitalist newspapers do. But it will not take you long to grasp the Marxist outlook. Big happenings that used to puzzle you will become crystal clear. A new way of life can open up for you, filled with rich understanding of our times and the possibility of making your own weight felt in deciding the great issues facing the world.

When you have read a few issues and become better acquainted with *Labor Challenge* let us know your impression. Letters from readers are published in a column called the "Workers Forum." We shall be glad to hear from you.

**LABOR CHALLENGE**

(84) Mid-July 1950

07-15-3

**Some Recent Events in the —  
4th INTERNATIONAL****Sweden**

The Founding Congress of the Revolutionary Socialist Party, Swedish Trotskyist organization, took place in Stockholm April 30 and May 1.

The Congress heard and discussed a report on the political situation and the building of the revolutionary party, a report on trade union work. It also received messages from the Secretariat of the Fourth International and from the Danish Trotskyists represented at this conference.

The new party has sections in Stockholm, Ludvika, Umea, Hudiksvall, and other workers' centers.

The party held its first public meeting on a square in Stockholm May 1. A thousand persons responded to its call and participated in this meeting. Many important Swedish and Danish papers, as well as the official Swedish news agency, announced the launching of the new party.

The Revolutionary Socialist Party has also begun the publication of a new paper, *Internationa-len*, presenting the Trotskyist viewpoint on the main problems facing the Swedish workers and elaborating the revolutionary program for solving them. Two issues of the paper have already been issued.

\* \* \*

**Ceylon**

The Trotskyist movement to Ceylon was unified within a single organization at the unity conference of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party and the Bolshevik Samasamajist Party held at the Colombo Town Hall on June 4. The united organization with its 16 members in the Ceylon Parliament will be known as the Lanka Sama Samaja Party, Ceylon section of the Fourth International.

The unification is the fruit of a series of conferences and joint actions that have taken place over the last year. The tens of thousands of workers who attended the joint rallies held in various parts of Ceylon are jubilant at the unification which they know will be a powerful instrument to beat the class enemy.

The June 4th unity conference followed the adoption of a resolution favoring the merger by the LSSP held in Piliyandala last month. The BSP had unanimously

adopted the same resolution the previous day.

About 350 members and candidates were present at the conference, at which Comrade N. M. Perera presided. A letter was read from the International Secretariat of the Fourth International, expressing its gratification over the unification and recognizing the party as its national section.

The Conference adopted a program and constitution, after discussing and amending the drafts submitted by the Central Joint Council. A Central Committee of 15 members was elected.

A resolution was passed by the conference, expressing its regret that a section of the LSSP (under the leadership of D.P.R. Gunawardene) had deliberately remained away from the unity conference, and invited them to join the party. It also directed the Central Committee to enroll them as members if and when they so desire. (A number of those who had walked out of last month's LSSP conference with D.P.R. Gunawardene had already reconsidered their action and participated in the united conference.)

\* \* \*

**United States**

The Socialist Workers Party of the United States is holding its National Legislative Convention in New York this month. The main item on the agenda will be the adoption of the party's platform for the 1950 election. Speakers at the opening session will be Farrell Dobbs, National Chairman of the SWP, Joseph Hansen, SWP candidate for Senator from New York, Clyde Turner, the party's candidate for Senator from Pennsylvania, and others.

Dobbs declared that the convention "will be marked by a spirit of international opposition to Truman's undeclared war in Korea. . . . We will explain to the American people how the giant monopolies and the brass hats, using the crimes and brutality of the Kremlin as a pretext are trying to carve out a new colonial empire in the Orient and a police state at home. The shooting in Korea and with it the danger of a third World War makes a Workers and Farmers Government and a socialist society a greater and more insistent need."

Speeches by Dobbs and Hansen will be carried over the national networks.

**TROTSKYIST BULLETIN  
ON THE CZECH TRIALS**

The International Secretariat of the Fourth International issued a public statement on June 16 on the recent trial of 13 people in Czechoslovakia, in which one of the defendants, Zavis Kalandra, who was sentenced to death, made a "confession" about his activity as an "American spy." The statement, which was released through the French Trotskyist party, pointed out that Zavis Kalandra has been a member of the Czech Trotskyist movement for many years before the war.

For his revolutionary activity he was arrested during the Nazi occupation and spent six years in concentration camps, notably at Ravensbruck and Sachsenhausen. After the war, he resumed political activity in the ranks of the Czech Social Democratic Party.

"Since the Prague coup of February 1948," the statement emphasizes, "the International Secretariat has had no further contact with the Czech Trotskyists and Zavis Kalandra in particular. The pretended emissaries of the Fourth International with whom Zavis Kalandra, according to the charges, was alleged to have been in contact were neither adherents of the Fourth International nor charged by it with any mission whatever. It was only from the official Czech reports that the International Secretariat learned of the 'confession' and of the death sentence imposed on Zavis Kalandra."

The conditions under which political trials take place in countries under the control of the Soviet bureaucracy are such that no credit whatever can be placed

in the 'confessions' of the accused, especially of those who were revolutionary militants hostile to Stalinism. Who could believe that Zavis Kalandra, who had devoted his entire life to the workers' movement, would have uttered without constraint the following words reported by the Prague radio: "I regret the acts I have committed out of a malicious hatred of the working class and socialism?"

**FRAMEUP TRIALS**

"As in the Rajk and Kostov trials, the Kremlin and its Czech flunkies have utilized in Czechoslovakia the technique of framing up alongside of genuine agents of imperialism and Stalinist provocateurs, those militant workers and revolutionists who are opposed to the bureaucratic-police regime which the Kremlin has imposed on the various people's democracies in the name of socialism."

Saluting the intervention of many intellectuals who have already protested against the death sentence imposed on the old antifascist refugee Zavis Kalandra the International Secretariat closed its statement with an appeal "to all workers and democratic organizations and all the honest intellectuals to intervene energetically against the execution of Z. Kalandra; and to demand a review of this trial and another trial in the presence of an International Commission of workers and intellectuals that will be given full opportunity to communicate with the accused and carry on a real inquiry into his case."

According to an announcement by the Stalinist government in Prague, Zavis Kalandra was executed on June 27.

**ATTENTION!****Vancouver Readers**

You are welcome to attend the following series of forums that will be held at the SWEDISH COMMUNITY HALL, Hastings at Clark Drive, the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 8 p.m.

JULY 27th —  
*The Tasks in the Unions*

AUGUST 10 —  
*The Struggle Against War*

AUGUST 14  
*Civil Rights Imperilled*



Price: 5 cents

Let's vote on this life-and-death issue!

As we go to press, top U.S. and Canadian brass are meeting in Ottawa under the auspices of the Joint Canada-U.S. Industrial Mobilization Committee. Out of this meeting will emerge the blueprint for the merger of U.S.-Canadian economy into one integrated, all-consuming arsenal of autocracy.

08-15-1

*[Handwritten signature]*



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Vol. VI, No. 8 (85)

Mid-August, 1950

"... the only choice is; Either bourgeois, or Socialist ideology. There is no middle course (for humanity has not created a "third" ideology, and moreover, in a society torn by class antagonisms there can never be a non-class or above-class ideology). Hence, to belittle Socialist ideology in any way, to deviate from it in the slightest degree means strengthening bourgeois ideology.

—Lenin.



08-15-4

### Turning Point for the Left

The CCF National Convention is over; a convention marked by a vicious throttling of the left wing, the destruction of the basic programmatic document of the party, an unreserved pledge of loyalty to war-mad Canadian capitalism and just as unreserved a pledge of annihilation to all critics of this rotten policy.

Up until this convention the left wing has shown a marked resistance to recognizing the true state of affairs. They have tended not to give the right wing credit for that determined hardness which they themselves have so far lacked in notable degree. They never believed the right wing bureaucrats would go so far in carrying out the directions given them by *Globe and Mail*, *Vancouver Sun* and *Financial Post* editorial writers as they actually have. But the lessons of this convention are about as subtle as a sledge hammer; if anyone could possibly miss them it is by being too stunned to know or care what hit them.

Fully aware now of the true nature of the forces they are up against, the Left must face up boldly to its tasks. The Convention marks a turning point, and they must now make their decision: EITHER to continue the fight on a higher plane; OR to surrender all that has been won in two years of sporadic struggle and quietly give up the ghost.

The fight will be harder than before, it is true. The Coldwell bureaucracy has added another layer of armor to its battlements by gaining power for its National Executive to discipline provincial sections in any way it sees fit, for any "crime" it deems sufficient, over the heads of the provincial executives. The present war scare and passivity of the labor movement provides them temporarily with the atmosphere most favorable to their despicable labors.

But in compensation, the Left has gained the prospect of a broader field of recruitment from the mass of rank-and-filers whose minds have been set in motion by the blows of the Right. Even more important, it has gained clarity as to the real character of the struggle it is in—a struggle for the preservation of the most basic socialist principles against an uncontrollable bureaucracy. And if it utilizes the lessons of the convention to organize, to consolidate its own forces and hammer out the line of march through province-wide and national bulletins within the party, through discussion and conferences, it will find that history will reward its work richly in the not-too-distant future. Coldwell has the forces of reaction on his side, but the Left has those of historical progress. Opportunities will open up which preparation for NOW will go a long way towards turning into the victory of socialism in Canada.

### A Question for the Cominform

The new law in Yugoslavia to establish workers' control and management of industry has the Cominform press screaming in rage. Small wonder. Every move of the Yugoslav people toward breaking down bureaucracy and furthering democratic worker's rule exposes the totalitarian nature of the regimes in the Soviet Union and Stalin's satellite countries. Nothing can be more damaging to Stalinism, in the long run, than the growing contrast between Yugoslavia under the Tito government and the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe under Stalin.

It is its unholy fear of the repercussion that these revolutionary developments in Yugoslavia will set off that causes the Cominform to rant and rave and to print side by side the most monstrous contradictions and absurd slanders.

Among other arguments, the Cominform claims that the new workers control law was introduced by the "fascist Tito" just as a "smoke-screen" to hide his moves to "restore capitalism." You would gather from this that the Cominform is objecting because the move in Yugoslavia is allegedly a fraud and because what Tito proposed is not workers' control at all, but something else falsely labeled by that name.

No one in his right senses would say that *genuine* workers' control and greater workers' power in the factories are going to make it easier for the capitalists in Yugoslavia to take back the means of production. You would assume then that the Cominform, if it thinks the Tito government is putting over a fake workers' control, would call on the Yugoslav workers to fight to win real workers' control.

But here the Cominform paper lapses into a vast silence. It doesn't breathe a word that would suggest that the Yugoslav workers brush aside Tito's alleged "smoke-screen" in order to establish effective workers' control. That's what shows that the fraud is all on the side of the Stalinist agents of the Kremlin.

We suggest that those workers who are taken in by Stalinism address the following question to the Cominform: Does it advocate genuine workers' control, more workers' democracy, in Yugoslavia — or for that matter in Stalin's own satellite countries?

We know the answer in advance: Anybody who even raises such a question must be a "Trotskyite" or a "Titoist." What has roused Moscow's ire is not that Tito is putting over a "fake" workers' control, but that he talks about workers' control at all. Who knows? Even mentioning the subject may inspire "dangerous thoughts" in the other countries of Eastern Europe.

## "Guns Not Butter" The Promise Of Abbott's Budget

By PAUL KANE

After working the Canadian people into a cold sweat of anxiety that the emergency supplementary budget would hoist income taxes and impose a flood of new taxes, including a boost in the sales tax, Finance Minister Abbott presented the details.

A sigh of relief went up when the workers heard the news, bad news, but not as bad as was expected. This was how the St. Laurent government slipped over its tax-the-poor interim budget.

Designed to raise only \$58.9 million in the current fiscal year it nevertheless is directed at the pocket books of the workers by imposing new taxes on commodities in daily use by the great majority. While it increased corporation income taxes 5 per cent, the government will raise three quarters of the total amount by increasing the tax on pop and candy, on beer and liquor, motorcycles, cars, sport goods, etc.

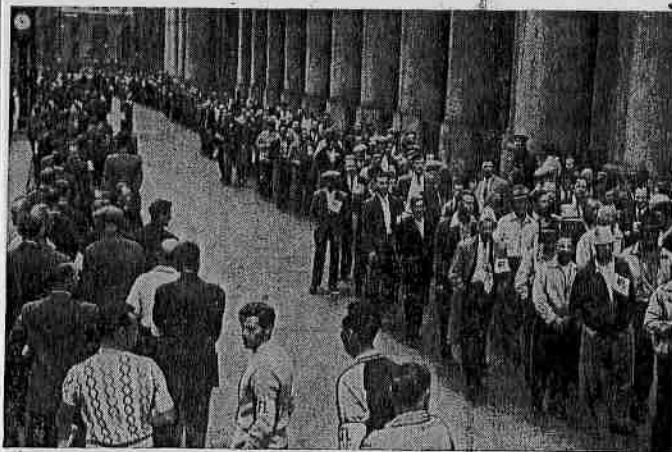
### NOT IDLE TALK

But all the previous talk wasn't idle talk. "Guns not butter" is what is in store for the people as the government gears the entire country for war.

When queried about income taxes not being raised Abbott maliciously grinned and with a wagging finger said: "Be patient, just be patient." He told the house "I feel we should hold this important source of revenue in reserve." As for increase in the sales tax, now at 8 per cent, Abbott gave clear warning of the government's intentions to raise it at the first opportunity in his comment "Our present sales tax, particularly with its almost total exemption of food, fuel and building materials, does not deserve many of the criticisms that have been levelled against it." What a field to exploit here!

No, these are not empty threats. The St. Laurent government through its incredible boost in military expenditures is already committed to increase income taxes, to boost the sales tax and more. In 16 days, through the emergency session of the house, St. Laurent jammed through a whole series of bills, with no opposition whatsoever, that have in essence put the country on a war footing.

## Railway Pickets at Toronto Station



## TLC Backs Korean War Amid Red-Baiting Orgy

Special to Labor Challenge

MONTREAL, Sept. 17. — The 65th annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress wound up here, after a week's deliberations, under a cloud of hysterical red-baiting.

Chief resolutions passed gave TLC support to the crushing of the Korean civil war by armed force and amended the constitution to bar delegates even suspected of "Communist sympathies."

Led by President Percy Bengough, the TLC executive committee met before the convention opened a week ago and bureaucratically decided to bar entry to some 20 accredited delegates. The charges were communist. This act

limitation of any opposition, the convention pushed through a motion backing up the imperialist intervention in Korea. Delegates who spoke against the motion had difficulty in making themselves heard above the boos and catcalls of the steamrolling majority.

Indicative of the lynch split of the bureaucracy was the statement of Russell Harvey, Canadian director of operations for the

democracy in 100 per cent. perfect.

For the first time in Canada the theory that a person is guilty unless he can prove his innocence was adopted in the labor movement. Now any AFL-TLC labor tactic will be able, almost at will, to wipe out any opposition in a local union, district or provincial council or other TLC body by merely denouncing his opponents as "Communists." Even Bengough was forced to admit that it was possible that many innocent union members might suffer in the Communist purge.

The Stalinists were practically

## R.R. STRIKERS WRUNG GAINS FROM BOSSES

By BARRY BRENT

The great rail strike is over. The over two hundred thousand workers who bind this half continent together into a going concern for Canadian capitalism are back at the job. But though forced back without voice or consultation by a strikebreaking government and a flabby leadership, for nine days they held this Canada — boss Canada — in their grip; while that other Canada — labor Canada — rallied to their side and with an unprecedented united front forced the government into a humiliating retreat from its original intent.

The strike climaxed 14 months of futile negotiations, highlighted by arrogant refusal of the giant corporations, led by \$50,000 a year president of the government-owned CNR Donald Gordon, to grant the modest union demands. These included the 40-hour week, (already extended to the companies' employees in the U.S.), and a 7-cent wage increase, more than cancelled out by soaring prices in the course of the long boss stall. The crumbs finally conceded by the bosses in negotiations were conditional on exclusion from the joint negotiations of the several thousand hotel and water transport workers, until now always included; and a 19-point revision of working conditions which would have gone a long way to the companies' objective of completely wrecking union conditions in the shops.

Forced into an unprecedented conflict by the government and the CPR, the workers unflinchingly accepted the challenge. At 6:00 a.m., Aug. 22, despite hypocritical warnings by St. Laurent of "the dangerous international situation," the greatest single strike in Canadian history hit the nation — and the

breaking Bill No. 1. Outlawing the strike, it sought to drive the workers back to the job assured only of a pitiful 4 cent increase, non-retroactive, (the last company offer), and the inclusion of the hotel and steamship workers in the final settlement. All else—including the vital 40-hour week issue—was to be decided by a government arbitrator, after a return match of negotiations.

The viciousness of the government as exposed in this "rotten" bill, as one union leader termed it, is underscored by St. Laurent's presentation to the House of the decision to include these workers "reluctantly" and only because of mass sentiment which "it would not be politic to override." This, publicly, concerning, not a demand of the unions for betterment but merely their determination to maintain their hard-won united negotiating front secured in the past!

St. Laurent's assertion that the bill would not be used as a precedent was enough to mollify Conroy, who fawned, "I think the prime minister is right when he says it isn't compulsion. He is approaching it from a common-sense point of view." However, despite

stresses hit the nation — and the

09-15-1

### FREE HAND

Defence Minister Claxton's Bill Number 3 has given the government the power to place all Canadian forces on active service in consequence of any action undertaken by it under the Wall Street dominated United Nations Charter or the North Atlantic Treaty. All of Canada's armed forces are now subject to service anywhere and any time the imperialist war-makers designate.

The government's 10-sectioned control bill, that passed with a few feeble protests, planks under the fist of cynical Minister of Trade and Commerce Howe sweeping and dictatorial powers to control prices, production and distribution of materials. Armed with all the powers to thrust the Canadian people into war, not just another Korea, but a full scale Third World War, the government has moved forward to prepare the military machine.

### MILITARY EXPENDITURES

In committee, during the session, the announcement was casually dropped that Canada's regular force establishment has been boosted 40 per cent. across the line. In short order Canada jumped into a billion dollar a year Defence Bill category. The Defence Appropriations Bill boosted military expenditures for this year to a new peacetime peak figure of \$670 million and provided additional commitments of \$414 million. The bill also appropriated \$300 million to be used to help arm Europe as a jumping off spot in a war against the USSR.

At cyclonic speed all the ground is being laid by St. Laurent for, Guns not Butter, for World War III. The workers must stymie these plans by uniting around the struggle to take the war-making powers away from Bay Street's parliament. Let the people vote on the biggest issue of all—war or peace!



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A monthly paper bringing the truth about labor's struggle for socialism to the working people of Canada.

Published by

THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY,  
87 KING ST. W., ROOM 5, TORONTO 1, ONT.—ELGIN 9613

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Subscription: 50 cents for one year subscription (12 issues)

The policy of Labor Challenge is reflected in its editorials. Signed articles and features express the ideas of our contributors and do not necessarily represent the policies or opinion of Labor Challenge.

Set up and printed by Merchants Press, 323 King St. W., Toronto.  
Authorized as Second Class mail by The Post Office Dept., Ottawa

Vol. VI, No. 9 (86)

Mid-September, 1950



Capitalism is condemned. Nothing will save it from collapse. The more resolute and audacious will be the policy of the proletariat the less the socialist revolution will provoke sacrifice, the sooner mankind will enter upon a new road.

Leon Trotsky.

## Dear Mrs. Hall

You were quite right in indignantly protesting the scurrilous editorial attacks against your husband while he was the spokesman for the 15 striking international railway unions.

Yes, as you say, "he was a hero," in the eyes of the same cross-Canada press, he was widely acclaimed when he was in the lead in the fight "against communism," when he brought in the SIU to scab on, strikebreak and smash the embattled Canadian Seamen's Union. They had no words too full of praise when he sponsored and led the attack to bar all "reds" as delegates to last year's Trades and Labor Congress.

And now, as you say, "now he is being maligned and assailed by the same press." Life, Mrs. Hall, has proven again that no matter how loyally such trade union leaders as your husband carry out tasks that win the applause of the bosses, and therefore can only be understood to serve their interests, no matter how completely they subordinate themselves to the employers, that there is no buying of immunity from their wrath.

Not even such men as your husband, or Jack Hampson, president of the Alberta Industrial Federation of Labor (CCL), who is urging that "Canadian communists should . . . be interned," nor Percy Bengough who admits that his hatchet campaign to drive "reds" out of the TLC will chop off the heads of many innocents, none of them will escape the conflagration that they are fanning into flame.

You see, Mrs. Hall, red-baiting is just the thin edge of the wedge designed to drive, not only the Stalinists, but every militant out of the unions and to intimidate the rank and file into silence . . . that is why your husband red-baits. But in so doing he is undermining the very foundation of the unions, the sole basis of their strength.

Why Big Business applauded your husband's red-baiting was because it renders the unions all the more vulnerable to their campaign to tear them to pieces. And for what did they turn on him?

We think there is a lesson in this. Everyone knows your husband is not a militant to say the least. He did nothing more than in his own compromising way put forward the very modest demands of the railway workers. He even promised the government that the men would go back to work without question if the government ordered, regardless of the terms. For this they "maligned and assailed" him.

They did not call him a red. But the wrath with which they turned on him and the smallness of his "crime" only

## Correction

The Mid-August issue of LABOR CHALLENGE in its report of the CCYM National Convention contained a serious error. The article, titled BIG CCYM VOTE HITS WAR DRIVE, states that an anti-war resolution presented by a B.C. delegate "was lost by only two votes."

Our Vancouver correspondent has informed us that his report on this resolution was in error, that the resolution was voted down overwhelmingly. All sessions of the CCYM convention were closed to the public except for the one set aside for election of officers. The information therefore came second-hand from sources which heretofore had proven to be completely reliable. We have since learned that the resolution in question received only one or two votes. We apologize to our readers for unwittingly passing on this false information.

THE EDITORS.

09-15-2

shows us how much progress Big Business feels it has chalked up, with the past aid of your husband, in the straight-jacketing of this country.

How true it is that the red baiting campaign is directed against all labor—at the most elementary of civil rights. Why it is even sweeping up towards your husband! This should be a stern warning.

## Profiteering Causes Price Rises

Some of the capitalist newspapers and politicians are again trying to hand us the old chestnut that rising wages are the cause of inflation. Some people used to be taken in by that gag. But it has been pretty well exploded by the economic developments since the start of the Korean war.

Every man, woman and child in the country knows what happened the moment Truman ordered U.S. troops into Korea and St. Laurent sprang to his aid. Prices took another gigantic hoist.

Within a few weeks wages, which were at a standstill, lagged miles behind prices. What then is the cause?

Some insight into this question is provided by Defence Minister Claxton in his presentation to the house of a Defence Appropriations Bill calling for total expenditures and commitments of \$1,425,000,000.00. Claxton told the house that a 21 inch Mark 19 torpedo which cost \$15,000 during the Second World War just 5 years ago now costs \$100,000, that a fighter plane then \$90,000 was now \$450,000, and a Ram tank which once cost \$61,900 now was \$200,000.

No one asked Claxton what was behind these incredible price boosts of 500 to 700 per cent. But the Aug. 14 *New York Post* tells the tale in its report of a Senate Appropriations meeting where U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Vandenberg hinted that the air force would have to have a lot more money just to take care of its current plans. When prodded, the general revealed that manufacturers had in six weeks raised their prices as much as 90 per cent. for air force supplies. "What for?" a senator asked. The General replied that "we don't know" but "they are not based on higher labor or raw material costs."

The real cause of the inflation lies in the profiteering of the capitalists who are making a killing as a result of the huge increase in Canadian government war spending and the pressure of U.S. government buying on Canadian economy.

That's where inflation starts—and not in any miserable wage raises that the workers may force from the employers in a frantic effort to keep up with the skyrocketing prices.



**LABOR CHALLENGE** (86) Mid-Sept. 1950 - Page 1

09-15-3a

How the Liberal Party Dragooned the Canadian

**ST. LAURENT FOLLOWS IN**

By ROSS DOWSON

At his last press conference on the day in 1948 when he finally retired as prime minister someone asked William Lyon Mackenzie King what he considered his outstanding achievement. Without any hesitation he replied: "Keeping Canada united through the war."

King was not alone in this evaluation of his half century of political service to the Canadian and American bourgeoisie, that his crowning act was the dragooning of the Canadian people into the second imperialist world slaughter despite their most widespread and deep-going opposition. This opinion of King's was shared and fully appreciated by that symbol of Tory reaction, Winston Churchill, who in introducing King to the British house in 1944 praised: "I say without hesitation that there was no other man . . . who could have . . . lead Canada united into the heart of this world shaking struggle."

The war mongers, the Canadian capitalist class, have never needed a petition of thousands of names to tell them that the people of this country are opposed to war — an A Bomb war or any other kind of war. On July 29, 1950, the Gallup Poll released figures that show 66 per cent. of voting age Canadians do not support the sending of troops to Korea, with 41 per cent. rejecting intervention of any kind, munitions and supply.

King knew and feared the mighty anti-war sentiments of the Canadian people as does his protégé Louis St. Laurent. Consciousness of this fact shaped and determined his whole political strategy in the years preceding and during World War II. It was the diverting, the wearing down, of this anti-war sentiment and the projection of the Canadian people into a war that cost them over 38,000 dead that King considered his greatest achievement.

The corporation lawyer, the director on the board of several mighty corporations whom King lifted into his cabinet in 1941 as Minister of Justice, the man into whose hands he personally placed all the threads and connections of the Liberal Party machine, Louis St. Laurent, is following in his master's footsteps.

One of the Liberal Toronto Star's



W. L. M. KING  
1874-1950

staff correspondents, commenting on the St. Laurent government's policy, recently remarked "Canada, is in a sense, going on a war footing by instalments." This was the grand strategy of King as it is the grand strategy of St. Laurent — war by stages, death for the Canadian people on the instalment plan.

As late as September 8 Defence Minister Claxton in a house debate casually designated the fighting in Korea as a mere "police action." There has been no declaration of war by anyone "and Canada is not going to be the first," he said. Canada is not at war. True; there is no wage freeze, no War Labor Boards are clamped over the unions, conscription isn't in force, no Canada Defence regulations muzzling free speech and smashing the right of habeas corpus are in operation; but Canada under St. Laurent and the Liberal Party is moving slowly, inexorably, in that direction, "on instalments."

From participation in the Marshall Plan, involvement in the Atlantic Pact, then 12 planes in the Korean war zone and three destroyers operating with the U.S. fleet, on to a special volunteer force for Korean action . . . forward . . . to a government with powers to involve the Korean force in any UN action, a military budget of almost a billion dollars, the boosting of the armed forces ceiling 40 per cent. — to World War

III, the police state and the H Bomb war. This is the path along which St. Laurent is driving Canada.

Of course St. Laurent has assured the house that his government "is not considering the raising of Canadian forces to send to Europe" but believes Canada should be a provider of arms and equipment to Europe's youth whom the imperialists hope to manipulate as pawns in a game whose stakes are death and world destruction. But how like this promise is to a dozen King made prior to and during the Second World War.

In the general election of 1935 when the carrion stench of war was drifting over from Spain and China, King assured the people of Canada that the question of participation in a foreign war would be submitted to the people by means of a plebescite. In the spring of 1939 both King and Manion, then leader of the Conservative Party, while making all the preparations for war behind the backs of the people, assured a troubled populace that there would be no conscription.

They remembered no doubt the anti-conscription riots that swept through Quebec during World War I, the night of April 1, 1918, when, from housetops and snow banks, citizens exchanged gunfire with the Federal Police in charge of the Military Service Act, the demonstration of 15,000 people where four were killed, many injured and 58 arrested. Manion said: "Canadian youth should not be conscripted to fight outside the borders of Canada. Conscription," he whined, "might lead to civil war in Canada or it might smash Canada into its original pieces."

The Canadian people then, as the Canadian people today, did not want war. But King brought into play that "political sagacity" for which the editors of the Tory Globe and Mail, organ of the mining interests, say "he was unrivalled in his generation," even by those masters of demagoguery and servants of Big Business Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Winston Churchill.

Britain declared war on Germany on September 3, 1939. The King government had declared a state of "apprehended war" on September 4 under authority of the War Measures Act which both Liberal and Tory governments had kept on the books from World War I. While sections of the military

caste, patriotic societies, and the Stalinists (up until the Stalin-Hitler pact was signed on August 23,) were doing the job of whipping up a war hysteria in the same way as the Canadian Corps, General Crerar and others who call for conscription today, King, sensitive to the opposition, calmly called the house into session on the 7th. The speech from the throne was so vague and equivocal that the Tory and CCF M.P.'s indignantly demanded to know whether the government was really seeking authorization to declare war or not.

At the outbreak of war there were over a million Canadians on direct relief. Months previously provincial governments had been tightening up on the miserable relief subsidies and driving thousands off the relief rolls. When King opened up the recruiting drive thousands of unemployed, with no place to turn, were driven into the armed forces. The first volunteers who were accepted (if the relief dole had not wasted their health away) for active service in a war that was declared to be for democracy and in defence of the Canadian way of life, were capitalist democracy's unemployed victims.

Emboldened by certain successes in the campaign that they had whipped up for a more aggressive war policy, Liberal maverick Mitchell Hepburn, premier of Ontario, together with Ontario Tories, formally censured the King government for "retarding the war effort." King saw in this an opportunity to rid himself of the Hepburn thorn and at the same time increase his majority in the house. He summoned parliament on January 25, 1940, informed a stunned membership of its dissolution, and ruthlessly dismissed them while they were in the midst of puerile denunciations and protests.

Just as Woodrow Wilson stumped the U.S. on the slogan "He Kept Us Out of War," only to take the U.S. into war, King and the Liberal party campaigned against conscription — only to clamp it onto the Canadian people as he wore down their opposition. The election swept the King government back into office with 188 seats, the largest majority recorded up to that time.

The March 27 Toronto Evening Telegram—a leading Tory paper—commented, editorially: "The avalanche of votes that swept the King government back into power

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**LABOR CHALLENGE** (86) Mid-Sept. 1950 - Page 2*People into the Second World Imperialist Slaughter*

09-15-36

**MACKENZIE KING'S FOOTSTEPS**

is an emphatic declaration that the people of this country are not 'war conscious'... It is true that Manion emphatically repudiated conscription but he was the mouthpiece of the aggressive war party and opponents of conscription figured that if it ever came it would come from Manion and not from King with his strong Quebec following. Probably the biggest vote ever recorded by women of the country was polled. Yesterday that vote was 'against conscription.' The vote which vindicated the King government and pardoned all their grievous sins was an 'anti-war' vote."

Now King felt free to move forward at his own pace. In the summer of 1940 through passage of the National Resources Mobilization Act he instituted compulsory military training—not for foreign wars of course but for 'home defence' and for a mere thirty day period. Next spring King felt strong enough to move a step further on the path to conscription by increasing the thirty day period to four months, and a few months later to extend it to an indefinite period.

To undercut opposition the government granted exemptions to all farmers and exemptions and deferments to those who could prove themselves to be in some way essential to their employers. Employers cooperated with the government in augmenting its "volunteer" force by refusing to employ youth of military age who did not possess an army rejection slip.

Having progressed this far, King now decided to test the temper of the people and see if it was possible to win release from his past pledges against compulsory overseas service. On April 27, 1942 he decided to confront the people with a plebiscite asking for a release of "the government from any obligations arising out of any past commitments restricting the methods of raising men for military service." In the vanguard for a YES VOTE was Tim Buck's Communist Party, labelling Quebec isolationists "Quislings" and calling upon the Canadian people to "Volunteer for Active Service."

Over 2½ years after the declaration of war only 64 per cent. voted YES; in Quebec 76 per cent. voted NO, with the 24 per cent. YES VOTE coming from areas predominantly English speaking.

King now passed Bill 80 giving

the government power to order conscription for overseas service when it thought necessary. But he announced a policy which is a classic of equivocation: "Conscription if necessary but not necessarily conscription."

By January, 1943 the Canadian army overseas totalled 190,000. Besides the thousands who were "volunteers," conscripted through unemployment, thousands had gone active only as their draft call had come up. Over 57,000 transferred from the "home defence force" to the active army under the often brutal and sadistic pressure of the Brass. Such was Canada's "volunteer" army. At home there was another army of 210,000, the NRMA "home defence" army scattered in camps from coast to coast—living symbols of the Canadian people's opposition to Imperialist war and an agonizing sore in the eye of the capitalist class.

Bill 80 and King's cautious and astute use of it laid bare the crisis that the opposition to the war provoked in the top capitalist ruling circles. Its passage saw the first defection in King's cabinet in the resignation of Quebec anti-conscriptionist Transport Minister P. J. A. Gardin. An inspired biographer of King states that the general staff was in a condition of mutiny against King's attempt to get further recruits by the volunteer method. Defence Minister Ralston handed in his resignation which King refused.

In October, 1944 as Ralston continued to press for conscription King turned on him and ruthlessly dismissed him, replacing him with General McNaughton who had previously resigned under mysterious circumstances as commander of the Canadian Army Overseas. Three weeks later when King made a volte face in policy Air Minister Powers walked out of the cabinet. But King, father of company unionism, of Ludlow Massacre fame, the King of "not a five cent piece" for relief to any Tory provincial government, manipulated all these forces and ruled with an iron fist.

As late as October, 1944 King made the observation that, "to resort to conscription for service overseas would occasion the most serious controversy that could arise in Canada." But in June, 1943 he broadened "home defence" to encompass the Aleutians and moved forward towards his goal by sending a force of 4,800, mostly NRMA troops, into Kiska. Reports were

rife via the army grapevine that these troops embarked for Kiska at bayonet point.

Suddenly, just three weeks after his dismissal of Ralston, King felt that the time was ripe for overseas conscription, but then only on a modest scale. On November 23, 1944, he authorized the sending of 16,000 NRMA troops to Europe. As the order went out riots swept the NRMA camps from coast to coast. Troops stationed in Terrace stormed out of the camp to parade in the main street with slogans, among which appeared one that the CCF had first raised but had long since dumped, "No conscription of man power without conscription of wealth." Troops in other stations went on strike refusing to perform any services but camp maintenance.

The NRMA regiments, as they moved across the country to assemble and sail from Halifax on January 3, 1945, just a few months before VE Day, melted away at each train stop. Thousands deserted. On January 20th the government admitted that 7,800 had been at one time overdue or absent without leave and that 6,300 were still absent without leave at that date. In Quebec military police in search of deserters were afraid to go into many towns in the face of the wrath of the populace. There were numerous reports of irate citizens in Montreal and elsewhere forcing the police to release deserters they had arrested.

King did not see the end of his struggle to "Keep Canada United" with the victory in Europe, the point of Canada's main effort. When it came to supplying troops to Wall Street's Pacific Theater, the haughty Mr. King, who demanded that his staff be "not just efficient but obsequious" was compelled to concede that Canadian volunteers were subject to service only in the European theater. The Brass was compelled to seek a new volunteer force for the Pacific Front.

After VJ Day the government attempted to thrust short-service-record Active and NRMA troops, waiting for discharge, into foundries, railway road gangs and packinghouses, to work at army rates of pay and under army discipline. A rash of sit-down strikes in Southern Ontario forced the cabinet to hold an emergency session on Wednesday night, August 22, 1945. Henceforth King had to concede such work would be volun-

tary, at the prevailing rates of pay and drop all charges of mutiny and inciting to riot that had been levelled against the troops.

The next spring, as his imperialist "commitments" abroad changed to occupation of the countries of the "liberated" peoples of Europe, King met with opposition from new quarters. For 6 days, early in February of 1948, 2,500 members of the RCAF ground crews paralyzed a large part of the Air Transport Squadrons stationed in England in a stirring strike for immediate repatriation.

This chapter on "How the Canadian People Went to the Second Imperialist World War" comes to a close only to lead into that epic series of strike struggles that shook the country in the spring and summer of 1946 and consolidated the forces of the trade union movement in this country.

Now the master strategist is dead. Macleans, "Canada's National Magazine," sadly comments: "It's odd and rather disturbing to note how fast a man can recede into history. Less than two years ago William Lyon Mackenzie King was still Prime Minister of Canada; little more than a month ago people were still asking when he would finish his memoirs. Today he seems already as much a figure of the past—albeit as great a figure—as John A. MacDonald or Wilfrid Laurier."

Yes, King has slipped into the past—a forgotten figure. The consciousness of man has nothing to remember him for—man's intellectual stature is not one whit shorter as this cold, ruthless, skilled, maneuvering servant of capital passes on.

His cloak now rests on the shoulders of his chosen Louis St. Laurent who at an unguarded moment once snarled; Canada will go to war "even if 11,999,999 Canadians out of 12 million favored a policy of neutrality." St. Laurent is now imposing increasing burdens, the fruits of his war drive, on the backs of a dissatisfied populace.

Conscription and St. Laurent? Hon. A. C. Hardy, Senator, Brockville, answered a Financial Post quiz on "How We Can Avoid a Crisis Over Conscription" with the remark: "I don't think a crisis over military conscription could be avoided, for there will be two very large bodies of different opinion. I would not venture even to guess the outcome."



## THE RWP IN ACTION

The fifth annual Labor Day weekend School, sponsored by the Vancouver Branch of the Revolutionary Workers Party was marked by a keen and stimulating discussion on Marxist theory as applied to world events. The school, held Sept. 2nd, 3rd and 4th, was attended by over thirty-five people including trade unionists, members of the CCF and CCM, and Fourth Internationalists from several points in the Pacific North West.

The first session was devoted to an analysis of those tendencies in the socialist movement which call themselves Marxist and an evaluation of the contributions to Marxism made by Lenin and Trotsky, among others. Stress was laid on the fact that the strength of Marxism resided not in sterile dogma but in "method" as developed by Marx and Engels and successfully applied by main exponents of Marxism in the past and present era. During following days discussions were held on Korea, trade unions in the epoch of imperialism, and Yugoslavia.

Great interest in the position of the Fourth International on these topics was manifested by those who were attending Trotskyist educationals for the first time. The entire weekend was characterized by a close attention to the question of Marxist theory applied to living events and by the spirit of friendly comradeship between the many tendencies represented.

Toronto members and friends of the RWP commemorated the death of Leon Trotsky on Sunday, August 20 at a public meeting held in the Toronto headquarters. The party's national secretary, Ross Dowson, spoke on the validity of Trotsky's ideas in the light of the experiences of the Left wing at the Vancouver National Convention whom the Right wing leadership, ceaselessly attacked as being Trotskyist, and in the experiences of the Yugoslav struggles against the Kremlin which are provoking wide-

your own outfit. We do our own no-striking."

Thus Lewis has served notice that the fighting miners, as in the last war, will again stand in the forefront of the defense of American labor in wartime.

Lewis' stand will undoubtedly stir a warm response in millions of workers who have been watching the craven conduct of union leaders like Green and their Canadian counterparts with great anxiety. Their advance declarations of intent to bind labor with a "no-strike pledge" while prices are soaring and profits rolling in faster than ever is nothing but a declaration of surrender to the anti-union employers. And Lewis has correctly pegged it as "selling labor down the river."

spread repercussions in the world Stalinist movement.

Highlight of the meeting was the playing of a recorded speech by Trotsky made at the time of the founding of the Fourth International. Trotsky, from out of the past, brilliantly explained the essential role of the revolutionary party in the struggle for socialism ending up with a resounding prediction of the victory of the parties of the Fourth International over the Stalinist and Social Democratic misleaders of the workers and the achievement of world socialism. The meeting closed with a rousing rendition of The International.

On September 2 several hundred citizens of Toronto heard RWP speakers address a street corner meeting at the corner of College and Brunswick on the railway strike and the party's stand on Korea. Between 40 and 50 copies of the paper were sold to members of the audience as they listened to Barry Brent flay the government's compulsory arbitration law and halt the united struggle of the railway workers. Applause swept through the audience, which reached about the hundred mark, as Comrade Dowson exposed St. Laurent's intervention in Korea as a stage in the drive toward World War III, demanded Hands Off Korea, and raised the call for a referendum of the Canadian people on the question of whether Canada was to be involved in another war fought for profits.

The audience warmly responded to the program of the RWP and asked several questions of the speaker. When the meeting came to a close groups of workers remained to discuss Stalinism, the role of the CCF leadership, and various aspects of the Trotskyist program.

Subscriptions to Labor Challenge are continuing to come in from sample mailings to CCFers. Last week we received four subs from an old time militant on Vancouver Island. He writes a postscript "I wouldn't have known about your paper if your workers had not handed me one at the CCF convention—from which they were later kicked out." Our new comrade refers to the fact that Labor Challenge distributors covering the pre-convention mass meeting at Vancouver Hotel were ejected from the hotel corridors by house detectives upon frantic demands from the right wing CCF leadership. Coldwell is really scared of Labor Challenge and he has good reason to—fear the truth.

## \$1,300 DRIVE OPENS FOR LABOR CHALLENGE

As soon as you read this column, if you are a real friend of Labor Challenge, you will start to tax yourself.

We don't make any pretense, like Finance Minister Abbott, that this taxation is designed to "curb inflationary pressures," to siphon off that money which is supposed to be piling up in unopened pay envelopes around the house, and which the government has fastened its clutches on so that you won't fritter it away and so "start" prices rising.

We want you to impose this taxation on yourself for purely selfish reasons — so that together we can continue to publish LABOR CHALLENGE.

This tax is not designed to stop inflation, not at all, but to meet it. LABOR CHALLENGE must have a minimum of \$1,300 to continue operations.

We hope, with everyone really pitching in behind this drive, that we can raise more, but this sum is rock bottom to meet our increased printing costs, the boost in our telephone bill and so on down the line.

Now, we know that the increased cost of living has hit you, hit you hard, that you're probably buying skim milk along with margarine.

As a matter of fact it is because we are on a skim milk and margarine diet, the first fruits of the war policy of capitalism, that

Labor Challenge really must come out. As you know Labor Challenge can honestly and fearlessly call itself the only genuine and consistent anti-war paper in the country — from the day World War II came to a close when we, the only tendency in the labor movement that wasn't blabbering about a new era of peace, declared THERE IS NO PEACE as long as capitalism remains.

We want the paper to keep coming out to the few thousand who today are listening to its message so that tomorrow it will be there for the thousands who will be looking for it and will be in a position to really carry out its aim — the socialist revolution.

Branches of the RWP have set themselves objectives to raise in our campaign for \$1,300. They are expecting your help. Don't wait for someone to call around on you! Send in your donation now! We have no wealthy sympathizers to draw on, just workers like yourself. So if we are to reach this objective we want as much as any one of you can possibly give and something from everyone of you.

Send in your donation, check, money order, etc., now into Labor Challenge, 87 King Street West, Room 5, Toronto 1, Ont. — or if you are broke, start hoarding it and get it into us before November 15. We want the decks cleared by then for action.

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### LABOR CHALLENGE

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## CL TLC Delegates Ousted by Witch-Hunt

While the red-baiters and sh-hunters carried the day the Trades and Labor Congress and the Canadian Congress of Labor Conventions, did not have it all their way.

At the closing session of the CCL convention, after a long orgy of red-baiting, the executive's suspension of the United Electrical Workers upheld, delegates hit the to protest an executive constitutional amendment. The amendment proposed giving the executive council "authority to ex- any union which in its opinion allowing the principles and les of any Communist or st organization subject to ap- to the next convention."

A amendment was passed but mill several leading delegates k out against it and about 20 cent. of the delegates regis- their opposition. Well known talinist, Sam Lora, chairman ord. Local 200's educational ition, vigorously opposed the n. "This is the type of ht-control we might expect the present government in- but not from our executive Congress." This amendment, arned, is a threat to free which will "destroy the mil- of unions" which need not but "more left wingers in ranks."

ress workers' delegate H. ole, of St. James, Manitoba, he stated that he was "glad s the DE out of this Con- "voiced strenuous opposition a. executive, having, such s in its hands. He charged osher leadership with "rail- g" the DE out of the Con- Mosher had bureaucrati- ned to permit debate on the speal for reinstatement. "I he said, "to not having had oe of hearing both sides of se. . . That is certainly not ratic." an Orem, another Windsor 200 delegate, the day provi- sad shaken in favor of the

the floor on a point of order to protest that the supporters of the council's amendment were merely indulging in red-baiting. His protest was over-ruled by President Mosher.

Previously during the week, as the CCL leadership was supposed to be dealing with the real problems confronting the CCL membership and was taking every opportunity to red-bait, Elroy Robson, vice-president of the CCLRE, voiced grave concern about the Congress' "anti-communist attacks." "The Congress" he warned, "must fight for its objectives on a positive basis and not just by clinging on the bandwagon of anti-communism."

The TLC convention, held in Montreal two weeks previously, was likewise a scene of victory and inhibition for the red-baiting trade union bureaucracy. But one of their fundamental aims, that the witch-hunt was designed to set the stage for acceptance by the membership, was overwhelmingly defeated. The executive tried to jam through a constitutional amendment that would take control of the convention away from elected rank and file delegates and place it into the hands of the top officers of the national and international unions through a bloc voting system.

Last year this proposal was sponsored by scab-herder Frank Hall under the guise of "curbing communist representation." This year President Bengough appealed for its passage. The delegates who had previously gone along with the red purge howled down the amendment with an overwhelming majority.

The witch-hunt, a campaign designed to impose thought-control over the unions and purge all opposition to the bureaucracy's rule, given new impetus by both conventions, rages on. In the Toronto TLC council and other councils Socialist workers representing their locals are being summarily and brutally expelled. Dozens of locals are being high-handedly instructed to ditch their present delegates or suffer no representation. But there is a rising tide of opposition, opposition to the destruction of internal union democracy

## UN-US IMPERIALISM CRUSHES KOREAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE

U.S. Subversives at Work



From The Militant,  
U.S. Trotskyist Weekly

## Scuttling of Bill of Rights: U.S. Red-Baiting Pay-Off

The recent moves towards a police-state south of the border have reached unparalleled heights with the adoption by the U.S. houses of Congress, by big majorities, of the omnibus McCarran-Kilgore-Wood-Mundt-Nixon Bill. The very Congressmen who voted for it denounced its various sections. Sponsors of the McCarran part of the bill

except as the ruling plutocrats and their political gangsters dictate Congress has demanded that submit in servile silence to w militarism, wage-freezing, pri gouging, profiteering and J Crow. This is the real aim of t catch-all "Internal Security A mished through Congress

## Murderous Terror In Conquered Areas

The Korean people reeled from staggering blows last week in their struggle for independence. The world's mightiest military power, equipped with every fiendish instrument of destruction, poured sufficient troops against the North Korean forces to break through to the 38th parallel; and the United Nations placed its rubber-stamp approval on invasion of the peninsula by MacArthur up to the border of Manchuria.

At the same time, the swift advance of MacArthur's armies toward the armed forces of the USSR and China visibly heightened world tension.

Insistence by government circles that preparations for another world war must be maintained at their new accelerated pace despite victories or the failure of Chinese or Russian troops to move forward was not calculated to inspire any hope that peace might come from the smoking ruins of Korea.

Thus what Defence Minister Claxton called a "police action," undertaken with the solemn promise it would halt when the North

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# LABOR CHALLENGE

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Koreans were pushed out of South Korea, has once again confirmed the charge that this is a war of brazen colonial conquest.

## FOR HOW LONG

The new promise is that the thinly UN-disguised American troops will be kept in Korea only as long as "necessary." This can be judged in the light of the promise in World War II that American troops invading the Danish possession of Greenland would stay only until the end of "the present danger." The Danes have repeatedly reminded Washington that the present danger from Germany is now over, but American troops still occupy Greenland.

The aim clearly is to convert Korea into a beachhead from which in time an invasion can be mounted into the Asiatic continent in accordance with Wall Street's grandiose schemes of world conquest. This was the route followed by imperial Japan when it set out to conquer empire. Japan took from 1894 to 1910 to win a base in Korea, guarantee its independence, convert it into a protectorate and then formally annex it.

Washington, likewise underwriting Korea's independence, now hopes in a few months to crush all sparks of resistance, something the Mikado could not accomplish in a half century.

The "pacification" in store in the areas occupied by MacArthur will go down among the most frightful ever witnessed. Already

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## Korean Freedom

(Continued from page 1)

hints appear in the press of the work of Syngman Rhee's firing squads. It was ever thus. When the majority of an insurgent population is put down by force, the rivers flow red.

Against this macabre background, the UN debate on "peace" proposals appeared like the wrangling of ghouls. The Indian delegate, his eyes on the masses at home seething with anger and bitterness over U.S. intervention in Korea, opposed going beyond the 38th parallel.

Vyshinsky, speaking for Moscow, proposed the withdrawal of all troops and a free election by the Korean people to set up a unified government. In the circumstances the proposal was an obvious cheap bid for favorable publicity. Moscow participated in the division of Korea that sowed the seeds of the present conflict and when the Korean people discovered in life that they could establish a government of their own choice only in the way the American colonials did in 1776, Moscow advanced them only enough help—at a price not yet revealed—to probe American reaction but not to win.

Vyshinsky's empty propaganda gesture in the UN was a fitting climax to Moscow's cynical exploitation of the freedom-struggle of the Korean people, whom it regards as highly expendable.

The U.S. demand in the UN to get on with the undeclared war in Korea naturally won hands down. The body which Moscow helped create and advertise as the world's only hope for peace once again demonstrated its utterly reactionary character.

Despite these terrible blows, the struggle is far from over in Korea. The missionaries with jellied gasoline and phosphorous bombs will not find many easy converts to Syngman Rhee's "democracy."

Fearful as the "pacification" may be, it cannot extinguish the desire of the Korean people for freedom and independence. They will surely fight on as the Yugoslavs did under the Nazis, the Indo-Chinese under the French despots and the Filipinos under the servile puppets that have ruled their land.

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## AID HEROIC YUGOSLAVS

THE EDITORS

There are now 113 million bushels of surplus wheat held in this country. There is an anticipated 500 million bushel crop which will be for sale this year. Surpluses in other grains and vital foodstuffs are tremendous.

In Yugoslavia a summer drought has destroyed numerous crops, about 40 per cent. of the corn crop alone. Because of the strain to get essential machinery, Yugoslavia, usually an exporter of such crops, has been unable to build up a reserve of food stocks. To get through the winter without famine Yugoslavia needs 1 million tons of corn, a half million tons of wheat and a half million tons of other vital foodstuffs.

The revolution of the Yugoslav people against capitalism is in danger. They not only face hunger but their entire heroic effort to heal the wounds left by war and the Nazi occupation is threatened. They may have to hold up orders for industrial equipment already placed, thus further endangering the plans for their economy which were already dislocated by the Kremlin's boycott.

The Soviet Union could easily supply the needed grains. But dictator Stalin has declared war to the knife on the Tito regime because it dared to resist his attempt to impose a puppet government on Yugoslavia. Now the Kremlin expects hunger to bring the Yugoslav people to their knees or to force Tito into the camp of American imperialism, thus confirming the Stalinist contention that the peoples of the world have no choice but Moscow or Washington.

On the other hand the St. Laurent government trotting along behind Washington, is calculating in bandit fashion on what it can get out of the crop failure. Their World Bank is still holding up the 25 million dollar loan Yugo-

Aid Yugoslavia, page 4

(The Third International)  
"must systematically point out to the workers that without the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism, no international courts of arbitration, no talk about reducing armaments, no "democratic" re-organization of the League of Nations will save mankind from new imperialist wars."

—Lenin



### Aid Yugoslavia

(Continued from page 1)

slavia applied for long ago. The Atlantic Pact powers want far-reaching political concessions.

They have billions for propping up every dictatorial regime. Canada alone has outstanding loans of 523½ millions. Over 118 million of this went to the Netherlands government which used the bulk of it in its attempts to crush the Indonesian freedom struggle and maintain its imperialist yoke on the colonial peoples. Over 50 million went to China—the China of bloody dictator Chiang Kai-shek.

At official rates the foodstuffs needed to tide Yugoslavia over the winter will cost 120 million. And Yugoslavia is not asking for a handout. It is willing to pay for the food,

assuming the debt as a government obligation.

If Washington and Ottawa turn over any food at all on any terms to Yugoslavia it will only be to keep Tito out of Moscow's orbit. And if they can wring additional profit and advantage from Yugoslavia's misery they aim to squeeze everything out of the opportunity.

Let's end this cruel way of responding to human needs and human suffering. Grant Yugoslavia the loans she needs! Start loading ships now with the food that can save her heroic peoples from starvation.

### Peace Congress' "New" Call

The Canadian Peace Congress has issued a new peace call, its third, which according to Chairman Dr. James Endicott answers the new arguments that have been made against the Stockholm petition. The most powerful argument has been Korea which has blasted the Congress program to bits.

The Stockholm petition calls for the banning of the Atomic Bomb. The imperialist armies of intervention in the Korean civil war, without Atom Bombs but with mapalm bombs, rockets and block-busters, made crystal clear, if there had ever been any doubt, that war can still be fought in all its horror and destruction without A Bombs.

Now the Peace Congress claims to have the answer to this one. The new peace call still advocates the outlawing of the Atomic Bomb but adds—*Reduce All Armaments in All Countries.*

When the Korean war broke out the Peace Congress program suffered another blow. The Atom Bomb, unlike other weapons, Congress supporters told us, could only be considered an aggressor's weapon. . . . Brand the first user of the A Bomb the public enemy! But in Korea no A Bomb was dropped, so no aggressor, and no policy.

The Peace Congress now claims to have the answer to this one in its new call—*Ban aggression anywhere, by any country and armed intervention in the affairs of any country.*

With one blow Korea exposed the treacherous character of the Peace Congress program. But the substitute is no better.

Is the appeal for armament reduction a peace slogan? We will leave aside the question of whether the possession of arms breeds wars or the fundamental economic basis of capitalist society which creates a market for arms is the real cause of war.

Not many years ago, when military preparations began to strain the economies of the Big Powers, Wall Street came out with the Washington reduction in arms Treaty. If it were possible to make some agreement to reduce armaments and arms expenditures Washington would not be averse to another Treaty which will prove no more effective than the pre World War II version. Possessor of the greatest and most versatile industrial plant, even totally disarmed it would still be the best prepared for war.

And what about the aggression ban? We will leave aside the whole question of the falseness of determining the progressive or reactionary content of a war on the basis of who is the aggressor, who strikes the first blow. Is the Congress now opposed to aid going to the Koreans in their struggle against imperialist intervention when it bans "intervention in the affairs of any country?" With this new program it spits in the face of the Canadian workers who "intervened in the affairs of" Spain to further the Spanish workers' and peasants' struggle against Franco and world fascism.

The Peace Congress, its old call and its new call, far from mobilizing the struggle against war, heaps mountains of confusion on the whole question. Each stand it takes only raises new problems and hopelessly confuses those who would genuinely struggle against war.

Why doesn't the Congress give the answer to these questions? What are the historic and economic conditions that give rise to the military preparations, the conflict between Wall Street and the USSR? What is the class character of the war that is in making? Who wants the war and what do they hope to gain through it? As long as it continues to refuse to answer these questions and issue a call based on the correct answers, the Congress will only succeed as it has to date in diverting up blind alleys all the hopes and energies of those who follow it.

Why has it failed to take up the slogan advanced by a *Labor Challenge* spokesman at its national gathering this Spring and picked up by other delegates—Let the people vote on war! Let the people decide on the question of war or peace!



# LPP Calls on CCF Left-Wing Here Are Its Real Credentials

By PAUL KANE

The Stalinist Labor Progressive Party is making a sly, an embarrassed suitor's appeal to the CCF rank and file. Many CCFers' affections for the Coldwell leadership have become alienated by its bureaucratic conduct of the Vancouver national convention, its avowed determination to wipe the Regina Manifesto off the books, its open proclamation of rejection of the class struggle and by its shameless support of imperialist intervention in Korea.

In contrast to its recent fulminations, lambasting the CCF from head to toe, from the tops to the bottom, the last few issues of the Tribune have carried tolerant educational, even flattering appeals to the CCF rank and file. In Vancouver the LPP has mailed out decorative billet-doux to many CCFers. The letter promises that an LPPER will even drop around to talk things over, needless to say with his political credentials all carefully perfumed-up.

The LPP has two strikes against it in its attempt to seduce the CCF rank and file. The entire organized opposition to the Coldwell leadership in B.C. has been labelled Trotskyist, both by Coldwell and by the LPP itself. In Stalinist nomenclature the term Trotskyist means fascist mad dog, not a name conducive to making beautiful music. TRIBUNE editor Lealie Morris scores the politics of Rodney Young, prominent leader in the Left, "and his mates" as "organized treachery and counter-revolution." "For Trotskyists," he warns, "to pose as the 'left' leaders of the CCF, to be in charge of any successful revolt within the CCF against the Coldwell leadership, would be to compound disaster upon disaster." Ignore ME, reject ME, better to stay in the arms of warmonger Coldwell than to take up with any of the ideas of the Revolutionary Workers Party, cries the LPP wooer. But still perhaps a pick-up can be made on the rebound.

No doubt the hope of rebounds figures high in the LPP's scheme. The parties of the Fourth International and new formations of ex-CPers and independent socialists such as the Independent Workers Party of Germany are on the verge of frustrating such hopes in Europe. But for years now in Europe each new betrayal of Social Democracy and Stalinism has resulted in shifts of the workers, not knowing any other place to go, from one of these parties to the other, and back again.

A further point which they hope will play into their hands is the failure of the CCF Left, so far, to draw many valid and correct political conclusions from their conflict with the CCF Big Brass. Murray Cotterill, CCL-PAC director, in his endorsement of the National Council's stand on Korea

correctly observed that the Young amendment with its support of the UN was essentially the position of the Stalinists.

## SORDID RECORD

But we are convinced that a short resume of Stalinist policies, particularly their relationship to the CCF, will suffice, if broadcast, to frustrate all Stalinist hopes and in the process better prepare the CCF Left for the tasks that confront it.

Many of the CCF rank and file were pulled up to a halt and roused to opposition by the undemocratic nature of the Vancouver convention proceedings: the wholesale passing out of credentials, Coldwell's pre-convention commitments on Korea and the witch-hunt against all opposition-elements. But when the LPP consoles the Left and waxes indignant on this score it can only do so with tongue in cheek. The Coldwell leadership for all its cynicism and ruthlessness hasn't enough credentials to even get into the first grade of the Stalinist school of bureaucratism and totalitarianism. There has been no opposition of any kind in the Communist Party LPP since the expulsion of the Trotskyists in 1928. Ex-B.C. LPP leader Fergus McKean and ex-Quebec leaders Gagnon and Dube could provide excellent testimony to this fact.

Coldwell's, Scott's and Lewis' challenge of the Regina Manifesto and their flagrant attack on the principles of the class struggle galvanized many CCFers into opposition. But compared to Buck's gang Coldwell and company are pillars of Marxist orthodoxy.

At its first Ontario provincial convention during the closing years of World War II in its statement of policy the LPP declared that it rejects "any proposals which will set class against class." The identical words of Coldwell in the opening years of World War III. At that convention Buck strenuously attacked the CCF leadership who continued on occasional Sundays to talk about the socialist objective. "The majority of Canadians do not support socialism," he berated "Red" Ted Jolliffe. "The conditions which would make possible a socialist transformation of Canada's economy are not present. Therefore raising the issue of socialism has only a divisive effect and is seized upon by reactionary groups to mask their opposition to effective (sic) progress. Only co-operation between capital and la-

bor," etc., etc.

## LPP CAMPAIGNS FOR BOSSES

Drawing the balance sheet of the 1949 federal election debacle CCF Left wing leader Colin Canferon and others exposed the national leadership for their "growing tendency to make common cause with the Liberals."

The CCF leadership are transmission belts for capitalist ideology into the ranks of labor. Objectively they are agents of the capitalist class within the ranks of the labor movement—this is becoming clearer every day, particularly in the light of their position on Korea. But what about the Stalinists? On a whole host of occasions they openly, shamelessly campaigned and gathered up votes for capitalist parties. The Coldwell leadership, at least not yet, have never been guilty of such open and criminal action.

In that same 1949 election the LPP publicly supported Liberal candidate J. Decore (M.P. Vegreville) against Social Creditor A. Hlynka. The July 4 Tribune hailed Decore's election as "a great victory of the united democratic forces in Vegreville." On a national scale, in the 162 seats where only the CCF challenged capitalist candidates, the LPP supported warmongers St. Laurent and Drew. They did so by urging the workers to not vote CCF but to destroy their ballots in these ridings by writing on them "Keep Canada Out of War."

In the 1945 North Grey by-election the LPP quite openly, without any disguise, acted as a vote grubbing agent for the capitalist Liberal party. They operated under an open partnership with the Liberals campaigning against a CCF candidate and for the election of Defence Minister General McNaughton. They printed a full page ad "by authority of the North Grey Liberal Association" graced with photos of Stalinist leaders Harvey Murphy, C. S. Jackson, Pat Sullivan and others, and their appeal to "support McNaughton."

Witch-hunt victim and one-time top Stalinist leader Sam Carr informed the court of his visits to Ottawa in 1945 to talk things over with Liberal Health Minister Martin and Liberal party functionaries to cement the LPP's Liberal-Labor Coalition policy. With vast sums of money at their disposal they came to the aid of the Liberals in that election by running 67 federal and 35 provincial candidates in Ontario against CCFers in the most favorable ridings.

And this blatant class collabora-

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# LABOR CHALLENGE (87) Mid-Oct. 1950 - Page 2

tionist policy wasn't just practiced during the years of World War II. From 1935 up until the Stalin-Hitler Pact of 1939, then masking under the name of the Communist Party, the Stalinists plugged their line of unity of all classes in a broad movement that would supposedly stop war and fascism.

TRIBUNE Editor Leslie Morris carried out this line in the 1938 Edmonton East by-election by leading the Social Credit candidate's victory parade and speaking on the platform with Social Credit's Alberta Premier Manning. During the war years the LPP "modified" its support of this anti-semitic, quasi-fascist Alberta wing of the Progressive Conservative Party, in a pamphlet calling upon Premier Manning to repudiate the most outspoken SC representatives in Ottawa and carrying a headline "WE BACK CHURCHILL."

In recent pronouncements on the CCF, LPP spokesmen such as Stewart Smith have instructed LPP members to "establish the closest co-operation with every CCF worker or functionary or organization standing for peace," and to purge themselves of "all tendencies to identify the CCF rank and file with the leadership. . . ."

Obviously this hasn't always been the attitude of the Stalinists towards the CCF which regardless of the policies of the Coldwell leadership continues to represent the principle of labor political action to the broadest layers of the Canadian working people.

Not only have the Stalinists committed all the crimes of Coldwell and Lewis and then some. Not only have they openly and shamelessly collaborated with the capitalist parties and in this way impeded the class conscious development of the workers. They have consistently carried out the corollary of this policy. They had vigorously attempted to block the development of the CCF as a labor party.

When the Stalinist CP was in what has become known as its Third Period, Stewart Smith, writing under the pseudonym of G. Pierce in a pamphlet *Socialism and The CCF*, labelled "the CCF as the twin of fascism." When the CCF, but for one or two exceptions such as in Manitoba, failed to go into coalition with the Stalinist designated progressive capitalist parties, the CP labelled it "splitter." For continuing to fly under its own banner in opposition to the Stalinist appeal that it should dissolve itself into the wartime Liberal-Labor coalition, the LPP heaped abuse on the CCF. It was not until January 1948 that the LPP came out for the election "of a CCF government and defeat of the old line parties." This line was adhered to only until February of the next year when Buck announced that the CCF "is no longer the progressive alternative to the Conservatives or the Liberals."

Except for the one short period,

1948-1949, the LPP has waged war on the CCF, not just as an opposition working class movement under its own banner, but in alliance with, even in unity with, capitalist parties. It has helped the Coldwell leadership extend its control over the CCF by its attacks on the movement from the right, by impeding the development of the party and battling to prevent the Canadian workers from flooding into it and taking it over.

## POLITICS IN THE UNION

The Canadian Congress of Labor's endorsement of the CCF as its political arm ever since 1943, has to a considerable degree remained something from on top between the CCL bureaucracy and the Coldwell leadership. Whatever blame may be laid at the door of the CCL and Coldwell leaderships, the Stalinists have battled to keep it this way and if possible prevent even this relationship.

Last month the Stalinist-led UE presented a brief to the CCL convention demanding its reinstatement. The brief charged the CCL leadership with being the "mouthpiece" and having made the Congress a "financial milch cow" for a political party against whose endorsement they boasted they had consistently fought. The party of course is the CCF. In its exposure of the reactionary purpose of the trade union bureaucracy's red baiting, the brief charged that one of its aims was "to cover up the fact that the Congress leadership had willy-nilly made the Congress the political property of a political party." There is no argument in-

cluding the reactionary "keep politics out of the union" that the Stalinists haven't used against the CCF, a policy which incidentally they show no predilection to follow in unions under their influence.

These are the real political credentials of the LPP when it knocks on the door of the CCF rank and file. When it sobs about the rights of small nations such as Korea, don't soften up. They are not for the independence of Korea or any other small nation. They are for whatever serves the interests of the Kremlin bureaucracy. Their real attitude not only to the rights of small nations but to the socialist revolution itself is revealed nakedly on the issue of Yugoslavia.

10-15-46



Windsor Ford workers, members of Local 200 UAW, show the profit-bloated company that they mean business in the demand that the contract be re-opened for general wage increases. This is part of a group of 1,500 swinging out into the street en masse after parading through the factory. Several demonstrators carried rough signs reading; "No Five-Year Contract."



# TROTSKYISM AROUND THE GLOBE

It is precisely in this certainty of their correctness that the basic sections of the Fourth International are strong and immutable. The catastrophes of European and world capitalism which are hovering over mankind will clear the path before the steeled cadres of the revolutionary Marxists.

Let the disillusioned ones bury their own dead. The working class is not a corpse. As hitherto society rests upon it. It needs a new leadership. It will find this nowhere but in the Fourth International. All that is rational is real. Social Democracy and Stalinism even today represent stupendous fictions. But the Fourth International is an impregnable reality.

LEON TROTSKY

## CEYLON

A national conference of the Ceylonese Trotskyist youth was held in Colombo on the 9th of July. There were 1,500 delegates in attendance representing 110 local organizations. The conference adopted several resolutions which a mass meeting and demonstration held later on wholeheartedly endorsed.

The youth conference hailed the unification of the two Trotskyist groups in Ceylon which are now united under the banner of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party. The conference saluted the victorious proletarian revolution of the working people of Yugoslavia and solidarized itself with their struggle to defend and develop the worker's state that they have created. The delegates condemned the imperialist military intervention by the United States in Korea and appealed to the peoples of both North and South Korea, hand in hand, to drive the invaders out of their country and establish a worker's and peasant's government which would insure the unification and true independence of Korea.

The mass meeting adopted another resolution sharply exposing the bankruptcy of the Ceylon UNP government which has not solved any of the problems confronting the workers, particularly, the problem of the high cost of living, the housing crisis, education and health services. The meeting called upon the workers and farmers of Ceylon to rally to the side of the LSSP and prepare themselves for the decisive struggle to defeat the UNP government.

## BOLIVIA

The terror against the Bolivian masses rages on. The bloody crushing of last May's general strike has not brought an end to the persecution and terror unleashed by the feudal-capitalist oligarchy against all workers and popular mass organizations.

Reports have come through that on July 6 the government announced the arrest of five leaders of the Revolutionary Workers Party of Bolivia (Trotskyist) and the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR). Among the arrested is Guillermo Lora, leading Trotsky-

ist. On July 12 another "plot" to overthrow the government was proclaimed, leading to the arrest of 42 more leaders of the Trotskyists, the MNR and the PIR (Party of the Revolutionary Left).

Additional information to that previously published in Labor Challenge on the May struggles has come through. On May 19 the police and seven army regiments encircled the factory district of Villa Victoria. Machine guns, artillery, and planes were used to destroy the inhabitants and their homes. Victor Estensoro, leader of the MNR, estimates that more than a thousand were killed.

In addition more than a thousand men and women were arrested and are being tortured to death in jails. Incarcerated in a concentration camp on the island of Coati are 104 victims, most of the mleaders of the various organizations participating in the strike. Of the remaining strike leaders, 16 have been exiled.

The social unrest in the country is so widespread and deep-rooted, the conditions and moods of the masses are so desperate, that the ruling class is attempting to sup-

press in blood every attempt to improve their lot and to brand as a "plot" every aspiration for a more decent existence.

Such a regime can only be condemned. Those who struggle against it are worthy of the highest honor and glory. Glorious indeed has been the role of the vanguard party in Bolivia, the POR, which took its place in the forefront of the general strike and participated in a leading capacity in the Co-ordinating Committee as well as in the ensuing battles.

## URUGUAY

The newspaper Marcha, which because of its strong anti-imperialist orientation, has found widespread support amongst the working class, white collar workers and students of Uruguay, published in its June 2 issue the appeal of the International Secretariat of the Fourth International for aid to the two German anti-fascist and working class leaders Oscar Hippe and Walter Haas. Hippe and Haas were arrested by Stalin's secret police in the Soviet controlled zone of Berlin and when last heard of were being held in concentration camps in the USSR. Both have long records of heroic struggle against the Nazis. Both were former members of the German Communist Party and were leading members of the German Trotskyist movement.

Another newspaper, El Sol, has denounced this new crime of the Soviet bureaucracy. The Federation of Students, the nationwide student organization has also gone on record in favor of the demand that Hippe and Haas be immediately released. The Federation sent a telegram in protest to the SED, the Stalinist and governing party in East Germany. The IS appeal for aid has found warm support from several trade unions who are preparing to help in this campaign.



**LABOR CHALLENGE**

(87) Mid-Oct. 1950

**Labor Challenge  
Financial Drive  
Off to Good Start**

The drive for \$1,300 to keep Labor Challenge rolling off the presses, telling the truth about the struggle of the world working class for socialism, advancing its hard hitting anti-war program, is moving into its fourth week. As we closed the books at the end of the third week we were able to tally up donations to the sum of \$439.25. This marks a good effort considering the fact that only three points outside of Toronto have planked money, cold cash, down on the line.

Of course others have been heard from. Windsor, for instance, has written us that it has pledged so far of over \$125 with more expected.

In the branch scoreboard Toronto is well out in the lead with payments totalling \$165.00. But perhaps this is only because it is easier for them to turn money over to the office.

Toronto Campaign Manager Barry Brent informs us that the bulk of it has come from the branch itself, which has responded in its usual big way to the appeal. But work to solicit the aid of Labor Challenge sympathizers in the Toronto area is well underway. Sandwiched in between classes, street corner meetings, and other branch activities, the job of calling on numerous sympathizers of the party for aid is proceeding.

First responses have been very good and "we hope" Comrade Brent tells us, "that we will receive at least the same splendid aid as we got last year that accounted for almost half of the Toronto total." First payment from Montreal was a nice check for the sum of \$58.00.

We have yet to hear from the West Coast. How about it out there? The East flings down the gauntlet in a challenge to B.C. not to let Easterners lose their belief that the West is the well-spring of Canadian radicalism. How about a little socialist competition? And what about those wide open spaces in between. The Prairies have to be heard from also.

There is 5 weeks to go. Not so much time, but plenty to really send the total skyrocketing upwards, up to, and we hope well past, the \$1,300 mark before November 15th.

**Contact us Now**

**Windsor Readers**  
LABOR CHALLENGE  
Box 25 — Windsor

**Vancouver Readers**  
Every Other Thursday Class,  
Swedish Community Hall  
Corner Hastings and Clark

10-15-6

**Program of Action!****1. A WORKING CLASS ANSWER TO CAPITALIST MILITARISM AND WAR**

Take the war-making powers away from Parliament! Let the people vote on the question of war or peace!

Against capitalist conscription!

Full democratic rights in the armed forces!

Abolish the officer caste system!

**2. DEFEND LABOR'S STANDARD OF LIVING.**

A sliding scale of wages—an escalator wage clause in all union contracts to provide automatic wage increases to meet the rising cost of living!

Organize mass consumers' committees for independent action against profiteering and price gouging!

**3. AGAINST ALL ANTI-LABOR LAWS AND GOVERNMENT STRIKEBREAKING!**

No restrictions on the right to strike and picket!

No injunctions! No compulsory arbitration!

**4. NO RESTRICTIONS ON THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF MINORITY GROUPS!**

No bans on working class parties! No "anti-communist" laws! No loyalty oaths! Defend civil rights! For full democracy in the trade unions!

**5. SOLIDARITY WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLES OF THE WORKERS IN ALL LANDS!**

For the complete independence of the colonial peoples!

**6. FULL EMPLOYMENT AND JOB SECURITY FOR ALL**

For the 6-hour day, 30-hour week! A sliding scale of hours—reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay to prevent layoffs and unemployment!

Unemployment insurance equal to trade union wages during the entire period of unemployment!

Nationalization of all basic and key industries and their operation under workers' control!

**7. TAX THE RICH — NOT THE POOR!**

No taxes on incomes under \$3,500 a year! Repeal the payroll tax! No sales taxes!

**8. INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS POLITICAL ACTION!**

Establish the workers and farmers government!

**9. A BILLION DOLLAR APPROPRIATION FOR GOVERNMENT LOW-RENT HOUSING!****10. AGAINST ANY AND ALL FORMS OF RACIAL PREJUDICE OR NATIONAL OPPRESSION!**

Full democratic rights for the French Canadians!

## Coldwell And "Force and Violence"

(See Page 3)

# WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

# Labor Challenge

Revolutionary Workers Party Canadian Section, 4th International

Vol. VI, No. 11 (88)

MID-NOVEMBER, 1950

Price: 5 cents

## HOW TO FIGHT INFLATIONARY WAGE CUTS

By PAUL KANE

The lurch, in a short seven months, from teetering on the abyss of widespread unemployment (435,000 or 12 per cent. of the paid labor force were unemployed) to a "tight" employment situation and a new wave of inflation, testifies to the crisis character of the Canadian and world capitalist order. Seven months ago labor was discussing how to meet the problem of mass unemployment — the CCL was in the process of organizing an unemployed workers' union. Now each monthly government report on the cost of living tops the last one. At 170.7 the index is the highest in its history and it is still going up. Since the outbreak of the Korean war in June it has jumped 6.7 points. What to do about inflationary wage cuts is the big question confronting labor.

During the postwar inflationary period capital and all its apologists tried to foist the blame for the inflation on the wage increases that the workers won in the titanic struggles that they launched at that time. Only trying to catch up on the effects of previous inflationary wage cuts—they were blamed with setting it all off. Today only the most stupid, only the most crude, anti-labor propagandists dare to repeat this old adage.

Today it is crystal clear that inflation stems from the unbridled profiteering of Big Business—given an extra fillip in the past four months by the gearing of the economy for war, which has opened up new horizons for plundering and gouging into the pocketbooks of the Canadian peoples. No one can explain a 20-cent a pound cut in meat prices in one day from an unprecedented high or a 500 to 700 per cent. boost in prices of war materials as having even the remotest relation to the wages of those who process or manufacture them.

The shrewd and demagogic financial editor of the influential Toronto Star shakes a disapproval and warning finger at the St. Lawrence Corporation for showing a consolidated net profit double the amount of last year. The staggering price holsts of the steel, copper and zinc trusts which hit hard at the lower layers of the capitalist class, and provoke the envy of the primary producers whose spokesman it is, causes the Globe and Mail to urge that some action be taken "against anyone who diverts such commodities from normal channels and sells them at price advances of more than 100 per cent. above prevalent quota-

## STALIN DENIED N. KOREANS AIR AID FRIGHTENED OF ANOTHER YUGOSLAVIA



tions on the regular market."

Be reasonable! admonish these propaganda departments of Big Business. You make our task much

(Continued on page 4)

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11-15-1a

## Ex-Soviet Officer Tells Of Soviet-Korean Rift

When the U.S. Armed Forces, masked in the insignia of the United Nations, were "pressed into a small beach-head" in South Korea, "relatively little help to the Korean Communists" from either China or Russia "would have meant a Dunkerque for General MacArthur." This view, expressed by the Oct. 8 N.Y. Times appears to be the consensus of opinion among military experts.

Despite the enthusiasm of the masses who rallied to the North Korean army, behind its revolutionary social aims and in their desire to win independence from all foreign imperialism, MacArthur's forces have now swept up the peninsula and hem the Korean army in the northernmost reaches of the country. It is clear now for all the world to see that the tide in the struggle over Korea's fate has been turned not so much by the vast preponderance of America's armed might — although this undoubtedly accounted for the speed with which the fortunes of battle were reversed — as by its complete lack by the Koreans of the most essential weapon in modern warfare: the Koreans had no defensive or offensive air forces.

Lt. Gen. George E. Bristow, commander of the U.S. Far Eastern Air Force, is quoted as saying a few weeks ago "The success of the Allied operations in Korea had depended on the fact that the Communists had no air force worthy of the name." If they had, "we would not be in Korea today," he added.

The capitalists and their propaganda campaign, from June 25 onward, never failed to stress that all of the military equipment of the North Korean Army was Russian-made. In fact, they attributed the sweep of Kim Il Sung's armies toward Pusan to superiority in

fact that, while the Russians supplied hundreds of tanks to be manned by the Koreans they did not supply enough aircraft to give the Koreans "a squadron or two" — sufficient, according to the experts, to win the war!

The failure to supply the Koreans with any kind of an air arm was deliberate policy on the part of the Kremlin, and it was motivated not by fear of how Washington might react, but by fear of an independent victory of the Koreans over imperialism, such as attained by the Yugoslavs in Europe and by the Chinese in Asia previously.

Startling proof that the Kremlin purposefully withheld this essential support from the Koreans, and the reasons for this stay in the back of the Korean freedom struggle, has appeared in two articles in The Reporter, Sept. 26 and Oct. 10 written by Lt. Col. Kyril Kanov, a former Soviet officer who "took advantage of an assignment in Berlin to come over to the West."

Kanov's previous assignment was with a special Soviet military mission to "form and train a new North Korean Army in not more than 18 months." That was in December, 1948.

The mission proceeded to Manchuria where it inspected North Korean units which had been shaped in the course of the struggle against Chiang Kai-shek.

After the survey, the mission was called together by General Kabanov, who laid down the line on how the North Korean Army should be constructed.

"SETTLED ELSEWHERE" In the conference, "Colonel Zurov"

# Wage Drive & Price Committees The Answer to Boss' Inflation

(Continued from page 1)

more difficult, you stir up bitterness and class hostility from the workers who create the goods, who read of these vast profit reports and see their real wages cut, cut and cut.

But Big Business is in with both hands for the killing. With eating its appetite only becomes more insatiable and no tongue-in-cheek admonishments from its more sensitive apologists are going to check it. Labor's real wages are being and will continue to be slashed. The living standards of salaried workers and farmers are being brutally undermined. What can be done about it? What kind of program can unite us and permit us to effectively defend our living standards from the profiteers?

The ranks of organized labor are moving forward to battle for wage increases. They are putting the heat on the trade union leaders and the profit-fat bosses to reopen contracts and grant immediate raises. Many locals have already won minor interim wage increases. The heat's on at Ford, in the needle trades, Steel and elsewhere.

As Canadian Director UAW-CIO George Burt told the CCL Convention: "The money is there, let's go and get it." For organized labor the struggle for wage increases is the answer. And a wage struggle under the direction of a wage coordinating committee, that can mobilize the strength of all labor and lift up the weaker locals, a proposal which Burt and the CCL leaders opposed, is the most effective method of assuring that the wage increases make up for wage cuts that labor has suffered to date.

These wages increases must, however, be protected from the inflation that is going to continue to build up. So labor's energies can be saved for the struggle to increase its relative share of the goods it produces, and not be dissipated in a continual struggle to merely maintain old positions, every union contract must include an escalator clause. This clause will guarantee automatic wage increases over the established base with each rise in the cost of living. Even the G.M. bastardized form of escalator clause tied to the distorted government index demonstrates the great value of this demand.

In a recent Gallup Poll 75 per cent. voted in favor of restoration of price controls. But there is no real enthusiasm for price controls and a feeling of distrust of them in

the ranks of labor. The union rank and file have a right to feel suspicious when the trade union leadership cries out for price controls twice as loud and with much more determination than it does for wage increases. They have a right to feel that the trade union leadership looks upon such controls as a substitute for wage increases. But while organized labor can immediately meet inflationary wage cuts by a wage drive, that doesn't mean that the question of prices can be ignored. For one thing there are hundreds of thousands in the working population who do not come under union contracts and are suffering under the Big Business profit grab.

In the last session of the house the CCF MPs proposed re-institution of price controls. The debate revealed, however, not so much an opposition to price controls as an attempt on the part of the Liberal spokesmen of Big Business to make a deal — price controls for wage controls.

The price controls imposed by the government during World War II had little or no effect on prices and profiteering. Certainly the government doesn't look upon its desired wage freeze as any important move against inflation, as it makes out. They would like to impose a wage freeze because it would mark up a big gain in their drive to break the unions as independent organs of struggle, destroy their militancy, and transform them into appendages of the state.

CCF leader M. J. Coldwell has already intimated that such a deal could be arranged. In his October

10 trans-Canada broadcast calling for price controls, he stated: "... no one will deny that a wage program is necessary if a price control system is to be effective. We in the CCF believe that such a wage program can be worked out by mutual agreement with organized labor. We do not believe that substandard wages should be frozen at present levels." After assuring the government that a freeze would be fine and dandy except on substandard wages which should have a prior boost, he continues: "We are opposed to arbitrary fixing of farm prices and wage levels by government departments or commissions upon which producers of all kinds are not adequately and properly represented."

Coldwell makes a show of firmly demanding that his wage freeze boards have some kind of producers' representation — a concession which the government couldn't fail to make if it expected any kind of success with such a freeze. But he makes not the slightest hint or whisper of demand that there must be producers' representation of any kind on the price control bodies that he calls for. This is the nub of the whole question if price control is going to have any meaning, be effective, if it is to serve the interests of the working people in any way.

Price control has to be in the hands of those who are most immediately, most crucially, effected by the price gouging. Price control that the working people can support cannot be in the hands of government flunkies like Donald Gordon who, when chairman of the government Prices Board, brazenly recommended to the milling trusts that they should pocket a \$4 a barrel increase in the price of flour.

Price control must be in the hands of the consumers, the housewives, the unionists, the clerks, the small shopkeepers. Mass consumers committees of this type, in collaboration with the farmers could investigate price spreads, probe into the warehouses and root out goods stored to create artificial shortages, stored for speculation. They could check into the price of every article, through and as it leaves the processes of production till it reaches the consumer. They could open the books of Big Business, reveal the business secrets of the monopolists, their machinations of exploitation, robbery and fraud.

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# LABOR CHALLENGE

A monthly paper bringing the truth about labor's struggle for socialism to the working people of Canada.

Published by

THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY,  
87 KING ST. W., ROOM 5, TORONTO 1, ONT. — ELGIN 9613

Editor, ROSS DOWSON

Subscription: 50 cents for one year subscription (12 issues)

The policy of Labor Challenge is reflected in its editorials. Signed articles and features express the ideas of our contributors and do not necessarily represent the policies or opinion of Labor Challenge.

Set up and printed by Merchants Press, 323 King St. W., Toronto.  
Authorized as Second Class mail by The Post Office Dept., Ottawa

Vol. VI, No. 11 (88)

Mid-November, 1950

## The UN Endorses Franco

The United Nations has committed an atrocity against the people of Spain who have been struggling against and suffering these long years under the iron heeled fascist dictatorship of Franco. With a vote of 38 to 10 and 12 abstentions the General Assembly has revoked its 1946 stand barring Spain from any UN agency and recommending member nations withdraw their major diplomatic officers from butcher Franco's capital.

Inspired by the U.S. delegation but officially sponsored by several of Wall Street's Latin American puppets, including Nicaragua and the representative of the self-professed corrupt Phillippine administration, the resolution had the open support of the Canadian delegate, Secretary of State for External Affairs, Lester Pearson.

Canada's vote is all the more significant in the light of the action of several other world powers to this open endorsement of the Spanish dictator. Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, India, Norway, Sweden and others, felt compelled to abstain. The Spanish Exile Republican government in an eleventh hour appeal called on the Assembly to keep the restrictions against Franco, saying that lifting the ban would strengthen the fascists and undermine the prestige of the UN.

But the U.S. cracked the whip and the resolution passed in the usual steamroller fashion. Wall Street wanted Franco cleared through the UN in preparation for including Spain in the North Atlantic Pact for the "defence of democracy." For both Washington and Ottawa, and the abstentionists for that matter, who fear a roused population at home, their concern is to integrate Spain as it is, where not even the most elementary trade union organizations are allowed to exist, with their war plans. Fascism is preferable especially as against any possibility of the workers of Spain raising their heads once more and establishing a government representative of the toiling population.

This UN action is indeed revealing coming at a time when the CCF and trade union press has been hailing Five Years of the UN. The CCF leadership, several of whom have represented Ottawa at UN sessions, have propagandized for the UN as the "only hope for peace," as the only hope, backed up by the Atlantic Pact, for the preservation of "our way of life." No wthe prestige of the Canadian workers, with which Coldwell bolstered up the UN in the eyes of the Spanish peoples, has been used to prop up their brutal jailer. The CCF leaders have so far been silent.

The Canadian workers who responded with anger and hatred to Franco's bloody suppression of the Spanish working class in 1936-38 and poured out their warm hearted support to the valiant fighters against fascism in Spain cannot remain silent at this time. They must let the Spanish work-

ing class, especially those worker-militants who daily face death in their struggle to overthrow the Franco regime, know that they continue to stand by them.

Now is the time for CCF clubs, trade unionists in the CCL PAC's and in the TLC to raise their voices in protest. The rank and file must not let it be thought that they will stand for any move to strengthen Franco's regime through the UN or otherwise.

## The Russian Revolution

Thirty-three years ago a revolution broke out in the former empire of the Czars which has since dominated the course of history. This most important single event of the 20th century was the establishment of a new social order by the workers and poor peasants. The architects of the young Soviet Republic, Lenin and Trotsky, proclaimed that the victory of the Russian workers and peasants ushered in a new revolutionary epoch of world history that would not terminate until the world socialist order was established.

Precisely because history makes giant leaps forward, backward leaps are likewise possible. This happened in the wake of the Russian Revolution. The revolutionary tide was halted for the entire period between World War I and World War II. This interval of more than two decades was characterized by a virtually unbroken sweep of reaction which did not fail to leave its deepest imprint on the Soviet Union where a reactionary and barbarous bureaucracy usurped the banner of the workers' revolution.

The defeats and the prostration of the world labor movement in the interval between the two world wars gave a new lease on life to capitalism, on the one side, and the reactionary Stalinist bureaucracy, on the other. The socialist perspectives opened up by the Russian Revolution appeared to swelling legions of renegades, pessimists and faint-hearts as nothing more than a mirage. Wholesale revision of Marxism, if not outright rejection of it, became the rage of the hour, as it still is, among the intellectual and pseudo-intellectual circles.

But events are once again demonstrating that after the temporary backward leap of the Twenties and Thirties and amid the turbulent war and postwar Forties, history had prepared a whole number of forward leaps. The fires of revolution are burning bright in Yugoslavia, the key country in the once backward Balkans. The whole of Asia is now a giant volcano, with masses of downtrodden and oppressed moving onto the historical arena by the hundreds of millions and preparing for titanic events that will not only rock the world but change it as it has never been changed before.

It is such revolutionary developments that will ultimately determine the fate of mankind and not, as appears on the surface, the Big Power politics of mighty U.S. imperialism and of the Kremlin.

The Russian Revolution was historically the starting point of the birth of the new world society and we, as orthodox Marxists, continue to take it as our point of departure in estimating the dynamics of our epoch, the most revolutionary epoch in world history. The future belongs to the world socialist revolution.

11-15-2

## LABOR CHALLENGE (88) Mid-Nov. 1950

## A BALANCE SHEET OF WITCH HUNT IN UNIONS

By JEAN LaPLANTE

The witch hunt in the unions, given another shot in the arm by the TLC and CCL conventions continues to rage on and tear at the vitals of many labor councils and individual locals. Emboldened by the success of the lynch spirit they

were able to whip up at the Montreal convention the TLC leadership, heretofore lagging slightly behind the CCL leadership, is riding roughshod into labor councils, executive bodies of affiliates and many union locals. On the whole the Stalinists, badly discredited in the eyes of the militants, deserted by their fair weather friends, badly demoralized themselves, are taking a shellacking and the bureaucrats are having their own way. The Stalinists have been pretty well purged from every labor council in the country. But in several situations where the bureaucrats' campaign has been so crude as to expose its real intent (start in on the Stalinists and then move in on any and all minority opposition groupings) there have been important signs of resistance. In one or two spots the bureaucrats' efforts have met with defeat.

Last week Carl Berg, vice-president of the TLC moved in on the Stalinist-led 1,500-member Civic Employees Union Local 28 in Vancouver. With the aid of the local's newly elected president, Sam Lindsay, he confronted the membership with an order to ratify the suspension and give the boot to Local organizer Don Guise and Secretary Jack Phillips, later widened to take in 12 other members for "failing to co-operate with the TLC."

Lindsay tendered his resignation as president, seeking a vote of confidence from the membership for his support of Berg's campaign and new elections. Much to his surprise a membership meeting of 900 accepted his resignation. Refusing to accept the will of the majority Lindsay's supporters walked out of the meeting to set up a new local with a TLC charter. The majority stayed on to take steps to protect the jurisdiction, funds and property of the local.

After easily disposing of the Stalinists in the top district leadership and the majority of the locals of the International Chemical Workers Union (AFL-TLC), International President Bradley hit a pocket of resistance in the Toronto Consumers Gas local. Bradley high-handedly took the 800-member local out of the hands of the 12-man executive board and vested it in a three-man supervisory committee when the local membership showed resistance to hearing charges against President Reg Wright for "communist" allegiance. He then had Wright and two other members, with a total of 75 years service with Consumers Gas, expelled from the local and thus automatically fired from their jobs.

The Stalinists have failed to put up a clear-cut campaign against their persecution for their political beliefs. Wright, well-known as a Stalinist, denies membership in the L.P.P. presenting a resignation dated a year or two ago. Four among 9 other members charged with being LPPers "confessed" when the LPP chemical workers club secretary rattled and turning over all the records, and have thrown themselves on the mercy of Bradley's Star Chamber. Barred from appealing to the membership, prior to the confessions, Wright had the support of some 200 members who signed a petition for a new trial. Meanwhile confusion reigns in the local.

Following the Montreal convention which barred Canadian District President Rowley and District Treasurer Madeline Parent of the United Textile Workers of America (AFL-TLC), International President Valente interceded to set up a Board of Enquiry into the charge of "communism." But faced with an aroused body of local presidents who warned the international leadership that they would not submit to the indignity of such an enquiry, fearful of losing slabs of the Canadian district of 20,000 members, the Board has temporarily withdrawn to Washington without revealing its findings.

While facing this intervention of the international leadership and engaged in struggle with Duplessis' police at Grand'mere, the UTW managed to maintain its hold over the four Montreal units of the Dominion Textile Company. The Sam Baron led CIO-CCL Textile Workers of America lost a certification vote by a vote of 1,000 to 1,500.

The Canadian Seamen's Union is only a shadow. The Stalinist led Fur Workers' Union (CCL) and Fishermans Union are under the threat of assault. The Stalinists are getting the gong in the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union.

In the CCL, the United Steelworkers Union tossed the Mine Mill jurisdiction by the top leadership, reports a box score of 4,394 ballots for Steel against 1,675 for Mine Mill in 12 different certification contests — most of them in Northern Ontario gold mines. Steel's campaign to grab off the key Trail local in B.C., launched with an orgy of red-baiting, has bogged down. This spring the B.C. Labor Board rejected Steel's appeal for a certification vote despite its submission of 2,200 cards, a clear majority out of 3,900 Trail

workers, on the grounds that no evidence was presented that the cards were backed up with dues payments. This summer Steel suffered a further setback when the

Board extended the Trail local's bargaining unit to encompass Kimberley where Steel never made any headway against Mine Mill.

While the B.C. Labor Board has barred a decision at Trail, Steel lost out in a certification vote at the Port Colborne plant of International Nickel which Millard had hoped would be an entrée into the massive Sudbury local. Although Steel was able to turn in cards to establish a majority to the Labor Relations Board, when the vote was taken Mine Mill nosed Steel out with a vote of 745 to 588 to maintain its jurisdiction.

The battle between the CCL-sponsored IUE and the Stalinist-led UE rages on. The IUE has taken over several small locals with decisive majorities but the big GE plants remain in the UE fold. Here again government legislation requiring proof of the support of an absolute majority to qualify for a certification vote played into the hands of the incumbent union, the UE. The bosses, of course, hope in the process of prolonging the dispute to rid themselves of unionism itself. IUE claims to a majority of the workers in the key GE Peterborough plant last spring were turned down when the board claimed to have found phoney cards in the submission. A wearing struggle goes on at Peterborough while the conflict continues off and on at the Toronto G.E. plants.

The CCL bureaucrats when they expelled the UE and Mine Mill, the TLC bureaucrats when they jammed through a resolution making "communism" illegal in TLC bodies expected a quick victory. They thought that red-baiting was an open sesame—a magic formula to victory. They thought that the rank and file would flock to their side or docilely submit to their ruling. When this did not happen in several places they thought that their machines could move in at will, chopping and slashing and line up everyone through sheer intimidation.

But they did not count on the reaction of sections of the rank and file, whose numbers are increasing. While the climate has been favorable to the bureaucracy and unfavorable to those who would put up a principled fight for trade union democracy there has been opposition. The above and the CCL convention proceedings testify to it and there has been more that has not been able to find effective expression.

Nobody can, and nobody wants

to be put in the light of appearing to, defend the Stalinists. The Stalinists provide the kind of foll the bureaucracy needs for its attempt to clamp an iron rule on the unions. If they didn't exist the labor bureaucrats would have to create them. Erstwhile buddies of the Bengough's, who in locals under their control treat their opponents in the same style as Millard and Hall, the Stalinists have made the task of waging a principled struggle many times more difficult. That is why generally, despite a highly efficient machine and posts in commanding heights, they are on the run and are seeing years of their labors completely wiped out.

But more and more workers know that it isn't the fate of Stalinism that is involved here, this must be decided by the union ranks themselves. What is at stake is the right of opposition tendencies to exist in the unions—trade union democracy itself. If the Stalinists are made to appear to be its defenders today, thereby disorienting some militants, this is a gratuitous service from the trade union bureaucracy and their reactionary campaign.

As for the policy of trade union militants;

They will continue to be guided by the need to expose the real character of the red baiting, witch hunt drive. They will defend democracy in the trade unions. They will stand by the right of political minorities to exist within the labor movement. They will reject any and all attempts to dictate to the rank and file who will and who will not be their leaders.

They will not go along with any ultra-leftist maneuver that attempts to identify a Steelworkers local or an IUE local, the CCL or the TLC, as some form of company union; as something other than a bona fide union temporarily under the domination of a right wing leadership. In the same way they will reject all attempts to classify UE, Mine Mill locals as agents of the Kremlin, as anything other than unions temporarily under the domination of the Stalinists.

They will continue the struggle to build a new leadership independent of Stalinist influence and free of the grip of the traditional trade union bureaucracy.

They will continue to battle to remain in the mainstream of the organized labor movement, in the TLC and the CCL. For here, where the masses of the workers are, must continue the struggle of cleansing the labor movement of its bureaucratic and conservative leadership and the building of a new fighting democratic leadership from the ranks.



**LABOR CHALLENGE (88) Mid-Nov. 1950**

11-15-4

**RWP OUTLINES POLICY ON TORONTO ELECTION**

In answer to many enquiries as to whether it is going to present a candidate for mayor in the coming civic elections, the Toronto Branch of the Revolutionary Workers Party has issued a statement to the press. Ross Dowson who has been the party's candidate for that post in the last three elections, in one polling almost 24,000 votes, gave the statement to the press on behalf of the party. It reads;

"It is with profound regret that the Toronto Branch makes the decision not to run a candidate this year for mayor. We know that thousands of workers in this city have eagerly looked forward to our campaign as an opportunity to vote labor for the highest post in civic office. Many thousands more across the continent, and for that matter, advanced workers across the world, look forward to the Toronto Trotskyist mayoralty campaigns as demonstrations of the power of the revolutionary Marxist program in action and as important landmarks in the onward struggle for socialism in Canada.

"However, this year, in the candidature of Ford Brand for a seat on the Board of Control, one of the main objectives of our past campaigns scores its achievement. Our fundamental effort in past years was to hold on high the principle of independent working class political action in the Toronto municipal elections. This principle is sustained in the coming elections in the candidature of Ford Brand, a prominent CCFer, president of the Pressmen's Union (AFL-TLC) and secretary of the Toronto Labor Council (TLC); and above all in the formation of the committee that is sponsoring his candidature.

"We Trotskyists feel that our

past campaigns with their inspiring results played no small part in the bringing into birth of the Labor Citizens Committee. We earnestly call upon the working people of this city to rally behind Brand and score a thumping victory for labor by placing him into office.

The Revolutionary Workers Party endorses Brand without subscribing to any of the statements made by prominent members of the Labor Citizens Committee that labor wants just a voice, to be in an advisory capacity, and doesn't want to root out of office any and all of the incumbent political lackeys of Bay Street. Nor do we commit ourselves to such actions of Brand as his acquiescence to the red-baiting in the TLC Council.

"It goes without saying that the RWP does not support in any way whatsoever either of the two candidates who have signified their intentions to campaign for the mayoralty. For the workers there is no choice between the windy Liberal demagogue Lampert or the incumbent Tory Mayor McCallum."

Unfortunately class conscious voters of Toronto will have no vote to cast in the mayoralty campaign. However, in view of the Ford Brand candidature, the failure of the Labor Citizens Committee to campaign for the mayoralty does not, we feel, demand that the quite limited forces and resources of the Toronto Branch of the RWP undergo the strain that an effective campaign demands of them as it has in the past.

The RWP guarantees that it will be in the civic electoral field in the future to advance the fighting program of the Fourth International and lead the workers to the new society.

**LC FINANCIAL DRIVE NEEDS FINAL BOOST**

In the past month the fund that is being raised to sustain *Labor Challenge* has been boosted up more than \$600 by various friends all across the country. The total on hand now stands at \$1,049.50. About a week before the close of the campaign and we have \$250 to go to make our objective.

When the treasurer of a union local meets current bills out of the cash box he looks with anticipation to what may be left over. Just like a worker after paying off the instalment collector for the refrigerator, or the grocery bill, and for that matter a farmer after paying off the seed bill. With the farmer or worker, what's left means whether he will be able to buy that pair of pants, or the shoes one of the kids needs. With the union local, what is left over and above current-claims on its treasury determines whether it will be able to circulate that leaflet to consolidate the local or make a donation to some hard-pressed brothers on strike.

That is just where *Labor Challenge's* Financial Drive stands now. With \$1,049.50 we can pay off past bills and meet the monthly deficit of the next few issues of the paper. But what about next June's deficit, what about that extra leaflet that must be got out, that contribution that must be made. That's the \$250 that we have to raise and which we hope we can make \$350-400. We have a week to go to make it up. You have a week in

which to obtain that cheque or money order you have been thinking about sending us over the past while and, getting it in to meet the deadline. A little extra effort and our objective can be attained.

The past month saw the West register on the scoreboard. \$200 came in from Saskatchewan and \$10 from Alberta. Vancouver\* put the down payment of \$26 on its quota. No doubt much more is on hand and will be in the office in the coming week. Vancouver had been nosed out by contributions coming in from various sections of that province to the tune of \$32.50.

Windsor has overscored its first pledge with \$130, Montreal has topped this with \$158. The Toronto comrades appear to be coming in on schedule. So far they have raised \$438.75 on their \$600 objective. There are dozens of pledges outstanding in the Toronto area and in the next week the campaign director reports that they feel they will make it alright.

The scoreboard reads:

Toronto .....	438.75
Montreal .....	186.00
Windsor .....	130.00
Vancouver .....	26.00
B.C. Outside Points .....	32.50
The Prairies .....	30.00
General .....	206.25

Total .....\$1,049.50

How about it, fellow reader! Have you done your part to see that *Labor Challenge* is enabled to fulfil its great objective? If you haven't, do it now! Send your cheque or money order, for any amount you can, to *Labor Challenge*, 87 King Street West, Room 5, Toronto 1, Ont.



## Truman - Attlee Offer China Little

# STOP THE WAR NOW!

## Pearson Confirms Truman's A Bomb Threat Ottawa to Increase Drive Towards War

Truman's cold-blooded threat that he is "actively considering" use of the atomic bomb in Korea and Manchuria "if necessary" provoked a convulsive reaction of horror throughout the world.

In response to the huge popular outcry at the dread prospects of spreading war which Truman's threat represented, the governments of Canada and England, and other key allies of American im-

perialism, made sharp remonstrance and protest. But their protests only reflected and did not flow from any fundamental sympathy with the mass revulsion at the threat of the use of the A Bomb.

Lester B. Pearson, Canada's external affairs minister, in a special speech to the Federal-Provincial Conference which seated all the provincial premiers and their aides, revealed the true nature of the Canadian government's response to humanity's anguish. Sensitive to the mass protest that Truman's threat provoked, career diplomat Pearson revealed what he and the top ruling circles of the Canadian capitalist class fear in the threat.

It was not the A Bomb and the peril that it holds for mankind if it is used. He conceded "if used widely enough" it "might destroy all life on this planet." It was the wrath of the peoples of the world, the security of the capitalist order itself, that he feared.

"During this period when the peace of the world will be in the balance . . . we must not look for easy results," he told the conference. He warned: "It would be hard to exaggerate the psychological and political consequences of the employment of the bomb, or the threat of its employment in the present critical situation." It "might . . . cost" the destruction of "the cohesion and unity of purpose of the Atlantic community" . . . "certainly its use for a second time against an Asian people would dangerously weaken the links that remain between the western world and the peoples of the east."

Pearson did not say what everyone wanted to hear: that under no circumstances would Canada go along with a Wall Street order to use the bomb which could set off World War III. Pearson just wants a say in the matter. "It's natural and inevitable" that the A Bomb should be used, he declared. "But before a decision of such immense and awful consequence for all of us is taken, there should surely be consultation through the UN, particularly with the governments principally concerned. One of those would be the Canadian government which has from the be-

## "Are they going to throw us into that?" Ask Canadian Korean-Bound Troops

"ARE THEY GOING TO THROW US INTO THAT MESS?" is the burning question aboard the troopship Pte. Joe P. Martinez, reports the attached Canadian Press correspondent, as it plows through the Pacific towards Korea where an advance party waits in what is called a rear area.

"WHAT DO THEY HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH WITH 1,000 MEN WHO HAVE NO REINFORCEMENTS? THEY'RE CRAZY IF THEY THINK THESE MEN CAN FIGHT THE WAY THEY ARE NOW," puzzled Private Roy Henry, member of the Korean-bound 2nd Battalion PPCLI.

The press has been full of statements by Pearson, Attlee and Truman—these few lines are the feelings of the men most immediately involved. But the Canadian troops are on their way to bloody strife-torn Korea. On December 5 Canadian navy officials reported the first Korean naval loss in the death of AB Vincent Lisk. Three Canadian destroyers participated in the evacuation and the senseless destruction of Pyongyang in the first week of December.

The cooler heads are said to prevail in the top inner ruling circles, the tension is said to have eased, but Canadian naval personnel are in action and Canadian troops are on their way to Korea. They will be under the command of power-drunk General MacArthur—who is itching to get at China. Trade Minister Howe has provocatively ordered an embargo on all goods destined for China in compliance with the pressure of the still truculent U.S. State Department.

"A full-scale war between China and the West would be disastrous for both," Doctor George A. Fitch, International YMCA secretary in China and Korea for more than 40 years, told the Toronto YMCA World Service dinner this month.

This is no time for complacency. Let the voice of the Canadian troops be heard.

Turn back the troopship Pte. Joe P. Martinez!  
Withdraw all forces from Korea!  
Stop St. Laurent's "police action" now!  
No War With China!

## Labor Challenge Drive for \$1,300 Goes Over the Top

We made it! Congratulations to all the friends of Labor Challenge who rallied to our appeal for funds. We asked for \$1,300 to liquidate past debts and build a reserve so that the message of revolutionary socialism could continue to appear in print. And we got the \$1,300—more in fact. And there is still more money to come in.

Thanks from the Editors to all those who responded to our appeal and to those comrades who organized the local campaigns.

We are moving into the sixth year of publication of Labor Challenge—this issue is the 89th issue. Many, many more workers through this work of the past five years are familiar with the message of revolutionary Marxism (in this period known as Trotskyism) than in all the previous 17 years of struggle which commenced with the expulsion from the old Communist Party of Canada of the pioneers who launched the fight against Stalinist revisionism.

It hasn't been an easy fight. In

### SCOREBOARD

Toronto	\$567.50
Windsor	195.00
Montreal	169.00
Vancouver	91.40
B.C.	47.50
(Outside Vancouver)	
The Prairies	30.00
National Office	
and other points	210.25
	\$1,310.65

12-15-1a

inning been a partner in the tripartite development of atomic energy."

Pearson and his bosses just think that now is not the time. "The responsibility for the war that is in the making has not been yet planted in the minds of the masses," he warned. "It is of supreme importance . . . that, if war comes, the responsibility should be clearly and inexorably fixed."

Pearson's speech for all its overtones and sympathetic gestures to the horror of the people was a test of public opinion and a further step in preparing it for the use of the A Bomb, if not against China today, tomorrow against the Soviet Union.

The essence of Canada's independent position from Wall Street is: the time is not now! don't get involved and tied down with a war in China yet! don't use the A Bomb yet! We have work to do before we inevitably use it! The masses have yet to be won to a belief that our provocative, our war monger-

ing campaign against China and the USSR is other than that, is in some way defensive or protective.

Ottawa, Washington and others in the Atlantic Pact haven't the slightest moral compunction about dropping one or a thousand atom bombs. Why should they draw the line at the A bomb in Korea when they condone "saturation bombing" that has destroyed as many cities as scores of A bombs could have done and caused more than half a million casualties? They had no moral scruples when five years ago, in alliance with and with the approval of Stalin, and to the applause of the CANADIAN TRIBUNE, they dropped A bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima when it was not a "necessity" and "last resort" but when the Japanese government had already made overtures for surrender.

Far from stepping back in its (Continued on page 4)

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**PEARSON —**

(Continued from page 1)

mad course the Canadian capitalist class can be expected to step up at an increasing speed its vast preparations of the Canadian economy and the Canadian people for the Third World War. Canada, whose efforts in Korea Defence Minister Claxton boasted are "possibly, second and certainly third among the nations taking part," Canada which Pearson boasted was "first to put forward the suggestion of a permanent UN force," is going to be transformed into a garrison.

The billion dollar budget for guns, bombers and destroyers will be enormously increased. "There's no telling where defence expenditures will stop" said Claxton in the prediction of a blood, sweat and tears program "perhaps for a generation" that he made a few weeks ago. All the long promised social legislation has been cancelled out.

Feverish preparations "to implant in the minds" of the Canadian people "the responsibility for the war" are underway. The witch-hunt, the scare against "subversives," the planting of guards around hydro developments are all part of it. Under government auspices and in the hands of the military a National Defense College has been organized at Kingston where hand-picked leaders in bourgeois life study labor, morale and propaganda. And if persuasion won't work alarming strides have been made to use the big stick.

The capitalist rulers of Canada are going forward to war. In alliance with other governments Ottawa may make new deals, including one by the side of Washington with the Kremlin, but these cannot serve to avert but only to postpone the outbreak of a new world war. They cannot eliminate the evils of their system or the antagonisms which provoked the present conflict.

The world today is pregnant with war and no one, including the major powers, can say with assurance when or where it will be delivered. Great wars are not usually set by schedule; they explode through the collision of forces which have slipped beyond anyone's control. And neither Washington nor Moscow is in complete control of all the forces at work in the world today.

Although America's Imperialists have embarked on a course that can eventuate only in universal war, their ultimate decision is still to be made. The Third World War remains a possibility; it has not become the reality. Time is left, and room is open, not only for the powers to conclude a compromise but also for the masses of people to intervene and have their say about the further development of events.



MacARTHUR

# LABOR CHALLENGE

A monthly paper bringing the truth about labor's struggle for socialism to the working people of Canada.

Published by

THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY,  
87 KING ST. W., ROOM 5, TORONTO 1, ONT.—ELGIN 9613

Editor, ROSS DOWSON

Subscription: 50 cents for one year subscription (12 issues)

The policy of Labor Challenge is reflected in its editorials. Signed articles and features express the ideas of our contributors and do not necessarily represent the policies or opinion of Labor Challenge.

Set up and printed by Merchants Press, 323 King St. W., Toronto.  
Authorized as Second Class mail by The Post Office Dept., Ottawa

Vol. VI, No. 12 (89)

Mid-December, 1950

"You want to fight against war, fight then against the bourgeoisie in times of peace, refuse to vote military credits, do not enter into alliance with the bourgeoisie, build brick by brick your own independent revolutionary proletarian party.

—Lenin.



## The Real Finding

The ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada that a covenant in a property deed restricting sale of land to those of "white or Caucasian races" is invalid has been widely hailed by leaders of minority groups, committees for racial tolerance and prominent liberals.

Norman Borins, one of the counsels, declared jubilantly "While the reasons for judgment are not yet at hand . . . these reasons virtually put an end to restrictive covenants on the basis of race, color, creed or religion." "It is further evidence that there is no place in Canada for racial or religious intolerance," hailed Irving Oelbaum, president of the Ontario Region, Canadian Jewish Congress. "The judgment gives force of law to a moral principle."

Unfortunately none of these grandiose claims contain any truth in them. In reality they only reflect the wishes of their authors who, living in fear of the whole reactionary trend against civil rights, rights of religious and racial minorities, that is developing in this country, are searching desperately for some signs of hope.

If the Supreme Court ruling were given its broadest and most hoped for, most progressive, interpretation it could only be said that; while any individual or group of individuals may draw up any kind of restrictive, discriminatory covenant that they wish, anyone who was party to this agreement can change his mind and sell his property to a Jew or a Negro and any covenant he was once party to cannot prevent him from doing so.

Quite a far cry from the claim that it has "put an end" to restrictive, racist covenants! They can and will go on and even multiply. The Supreme Court ruling does not legally prohibit discrimination against individuals by law. It only affirms the right of anyone to sell his property acquired by transfer to anyone he wishes (a traditional capitalist right) regardless of restrictive covenants entered into by a person from whom the seller acquired the land.

As for the reasons for the judgment and their use as

precedent—none of the six justices ruled as Oelbaum claims. They did not rule upon the "moral principle" at all.

One judge even disagreed with the majority ruling—he dissented and dismissed the appeal, upholding restrictive covenants, within the framework of this case, as just and legal. It appears that here the case largely hinged on whether the covenant went with the land up to the year 1960. Three of the justices agreed that there is uncertainty and allowed the appeal on this ground. The other three justices allowed the appeal in separate judgments not yet available.

Once again the case is proven for the position that the struggle against race prejudice, against racist and religious covenants, etc., will never be won by those who want to merely conduct a legal struggle. For real and effective progress along this line the pressure of mass movements of the workers and minority groups has to be brought into play.

## The Germans Vote

*As MacArthur rattled the sword at China's millions on the Manchurian frontier and the U.S. delegates, with unmitigated gall, flung the charge of "aggression" at the newly arrived delegation from Peiping in the UN, the rumble of opposition to Wall Street's war plans grew louder last week among the peoples of the West. This was reflected in the hasty pressure applied by West European leaders against MacArthur's "war now" policy.*

The strength of the anti-war feelings of Europe's masses was best expressed, however, in Germany where in the course of three provincial elections, several million voters had a chance to register their opinions at the polls.

*Particularly significant was the Social Democratic victory in Bavaria, most conservative of the three provinces, and one-time citadel of Hitler's Nazis.*

In this state, the number of seats held by the two parties is not yet determined, but in the popular vote the Social Democrats received 2,526,780, a 5 per cent. increase over their 1949 total, as against 2,386,689 votes for Chancellor Adenauer's Christian Democrats, a decline of 2 per cent.

In the states of Hesse and Wuerttemberger-Baden, the Social Democrats likewise became the strongest party.

Formally, the Social Democrats have not taken a firm stand against German rearmament. They have merely put forward the demand that the German people be consulted in a general election on the conditions under which they would rearm. But their chief election poster, according to dispatches, simply showed a rifle surmounted by a trench helmet, stuck in the torn earth of a battlefield and bearing the legend, "Never again."

*It can be safely assumed that the people voted for the sentiment of this poster and its slogan rather than for the devious policy of maneuvering with the occupying powers for an "independent" German army, which Schumacher and his Social Democratic colleagues are pursuing.*

The meaning of these votes is plain as a pikestaff. The German people are overwhelmingly opposed to militarization. Who can doubt that if a national referendum were presented to them on this question—which is the question of war or peace—they would vote even more overwhelmingly against it? And this goes for the people of all countries.



## Why are the CCF and CCL Leaderships Silent on the Question of Yugoslavia?

Yugoslavia is a touchstone for the foreign policy of all movements. The attitude of the CCF and the CCL-CIO leadership towards Yugoslavia is a test, an acid test, of all their recent statements and stands on international politics and the role that they think the Canadian working class should play in world affairs.

Ever since the break-up of the wartime alliance between the Soviet Union and the Western capitalist powers, the CCF leadership, while fighting off rank and file opposition to their continued commitment of the party to the Wall-Street-led Western bloc, has claimed that it is following an independent policy. On occasion one or another of the CCF leadership will talk about the "third force," "a third force policy" and the desirability of building it up to a decisive role in world politics. This "third force" has been widely interpreted by the left, for whose consumption the term has been coined, to mean a bloc on the world arena of labor governments that would forge a policy for mankind free of the Soviet bureaucracy and the capitalist rulers of America. In the CCL-CIO this has taken on the form of the resolution presented by the Mosher leadership to the Winnipeg Convention that had the appearance of lashing equally, communism, to which they ascribe all the crimes of Stalin, and capitalism.

Each time as they attempted to further commit the Canadian working class to the Western war alliance, the Marshall Plan, the Atlantic Pact and St. Laurent's commitment of this country to intervention in Korea, Coldwell and Scott and their boys in the CCF, Mosher and Conroy and their boys in the CCL, have always played up the economic aid provisions that the U.S. state department and the Canadian foreign office have seen to it were tacked on the official documents and speeches made by government officials supporting these moves.

We have taken the stand that these economic aid clauses are only sucker bait, designed to trick the workers into supporting the foreign ambitions of Wall Street and Bay Street and to provide those who are willing to go to bat for the monopolists, a lever, arguments with which they could justify their stand before the rank and file.

We have no reason to revise this opinion. The facts have borne it out to the hilt. John W. Livingston, vice-president of the UAW-CIO, last August, commenting on the effect of the Marshall Plan after a European tour, testified that the funds had gone to enrich the native capitalists while the working and living conditions of the European workers have been depressed to subsistence levels.

But let us assume that the CCF and the CCL leadership have been sincere in all their proclaimed aims. Let us take them at their word. Let us assume that they speak honestly and truthfully when they state that their highest desire is to help the backward and impoverished countries of the Orient, Europe and the Balkans, rise to better living standards. Let us assume that they are, as they claim, equally opposed to Communism, which they themselves identify with the totalitarian regime and rulers of the Soviet Union, and capitalism; or as they put it "Imperialism, whether capitalistic or Communistic, has got to come to an end."

Let us grant that Coldwell really doesn't want to follow a policy that subverts the CCF to Wall Street and its Bay Street satellite, or to the Kremlin; that his desire is to follow a working class policy independent of both Wall Street and the Kremlin.

Then what about Yugoslavia? Why are they silent on Yugoslavia?

Can anyone question that Yugoslavia is waging an irreconcilable struggle against the Kremlin? The international campaign of slander and abuse carried on by the Cominform against Yugoslavia is irrefutable testimony to the fundamental character of the conflict between Tito and Stalin. While the Kremlin proclaims over and over again its ability and desire to live in peace and collaboration with Washington it openly calls for the assassination of Yugoslav government leaders and lines its troops along the Yugoslav frontier. Has the Kremlin yet suffered a more staggering blow than the defection of the Yugoslavs and the repercussions that it set off in the ranks of international Stalinism?

As for Yugoslavia's relations with Wall Street. Only the Stalinists in their unholy subservience to the Kremlin contend that Yugoslavia has capitulated all down the line to Wall Street. Despite the recent dangerous conciliatory shifts of the Yugoslav leaders there is no proof that Yugoslavia has succumbed to Wall Street. The U.S. state department, trying to win concessions, is still cautious in its relationship to the Yugoslavs, is still feeding them the badly needed loans in pitiful doses.

Isn't Yugoslavia the very kind of "third force" that the Coldwell leadership has attempted to assure the Left that it is looking for? Isn't the struggle of the Yugoslavs, isn't their policy and their role just what Coldwell should hold up as an example, popularize, and solidarize himself and the CCF with?

And what about aid to backward and colonial countries? The economic aid clauses, despite all other doubts about the Marshall Plan, etc., were good and sufficient enough, according to Mosher and Coldwell, to require working class support.

Then what about aid to Yugoslavia! Why do Coldwell and Mosher hedge on this? A famine, due to the worst crop failure since the turn of the century, threatens Yugoslavia. Through their Five-Year Plan the Yugoslavs are trying to lift their country, long a field of ruthless exploitation by foreign capitalism, out of its backwardness. They need grain, machines, all the gains established by their struggle are threatened.

Why doesn't the CCF and CCL leadership use just a tiny bit of all the energy that they showed themselves willing to bring into play to enforce support of the Marshall Plan, behind an appeal for support to the Yugoslavs? Why don't they use their influence and their power to put the heat on the government to grant loans to the Yugoslavs, to ship wheat so that they can stave off the threat of famine and go forward in their pioneer work.

Why are the CCF and trade union leaders silent on the question of Yugoslavia! Why don't they popularize its cause and rally all the forces at their command to its aid?

Their failure to do so only exposes the hypocritical character of all their proclaimed aims, all their pretensions, and reveals their noble talk to have been only a screen behind which they could carry out the traitorous scheme of leading the working people of Canada in bonds behind the capitalist war machine. Their silence, their continued silence, can only be interpreted in that way.

—Paul Kane

# Workers' BOOKSHELF

*Stalin's Frame-up System and The Moscow Trials*, by Leon Trotsky. Foreword by Joseph Hansen. Pioneer Publishers, 168 pp. \$1. Order from Labor Challenge, 87 King St. W., Room 5, Toronto 1, Ont.

In observance of the tenth anniversary of Leon Trotsky's death, Pioneer Publishers has republished a speech of the martyred revolutionary leader which has long been out of print.

All of Trotsky's speeches have a fire and life that give them extraordinary interest even when they deal with the most difficult problems facing mankind. This speech, however, delivered before the John Dewey Commission at its hearings in Coyoacan, Mexico, in 1937 will forever stand in a place all its own in Trotsky's works. It marked a culminating point in the struggle to bring the truth to the world about the Stalin police regime.

## BEGUN BY LENIN

Lenin began the struggle against Stalinism but his untimely death made it possible for the propaganda machine of the bureaucracy that usurped power in the Soviet Union to re-write history. They painted the sinister Stalin as an outstanding leader of the revolution and the faithful guardian and continuator of Lenin's program.

Trotsky continued the struggle against Stalinism; however his efforts were virtually unknown or greatly misunderstood outside the Soviet Union. Only a few learned what was happening.

Stalin began the destruction of the Bolshevik party. At first its outstanding figures were demoted. Presently the slander and lies spread by the Stalin machine grew in virulence. Famous leaders of the revolution were hounded, thrown out of office, exiled.

The persecution of Trotsky as the main representative of the tradition of Lenin was particularly ferocious. He was first exiled to distant Alma Ata, and then banished from the Soviet Union. Many people thought his cause hopeless. But Trotsky did not give up. His fight was for a better world, the highest cause to which a person can devote his life.

As Stalinism became entrenched it began to reveal more and more its true character. Blood flowed. Stalin's secret police rounded up everyone who could be remotely considered a possible center of opposition. Nationwide purges were staged one after the other.

## MOSCOW TRIALS

To justify these monstrous purges, Stalin organized a series of trials of some of the greatest leaders of the Bolshevik revolution. They were accused of having become agents of Hitler and the Mikado and betraying their country.

These trials were frame-ups. But so powerful was the totalitarian Stalinist regime by this time that many people thought they were genuine. It seemed as if the lie had grown all-powerful.

Trotsky in exile was hounded from country to country, his life in constant danger from Stalin's gun men. No capitalist power wanted to grant asylum to the co-leader of the first successful working class revolution in history. In Norway the government even cooperated with the Kremlin to silence Trotsky so that he could not answer the infamous charges levelled in Moscow even though he was the principal target.

It was not until he reached Mexico, that an opportunity was given Trotsky to take the floor. A commission of well-known liberals and labor figures headed by

the philosopher and educator John Dewey decided to make an impartial investigation of the charges in the Moscow Trials. As part of their work they sent a committee to hear Trotsky.

For days these representatives of world public opinion cross-examined Trotsky and then they listened to his summation, the speech which came from Trotsky's lips but which sounded like the voice of truth itself. When Trotsky had finished, the whole structure of slander, lies and frame-ups fashioned by Stalin's secret police lay in ruins.

The Dewey Commission completed its arduous investigation and brought in its famous verdict, announcing Trotsky's innocence and condemning the trials as frame-ups.

Stalinism never recovered from this moral blow. But it took its revenge.

An agent of Stalin's secret police managed to gain entrance to Trotsky's household. To do this, he followed the pattern sometimes used by the Czarist Okhrana agents who penetrated the Bolshevik party. He married a loyal follower of Trotsky, hiding his real identity even from his wife in order to gain acceptance.

On August 20, 1940, this emissary of the Kremlin, standing behind the back of the seated Trotsky who was reading a short article submitted for his opinion, raised a pick-axe and sank it into the skull of the man who had dared lead the Marxist opposition to Stalin's dictatorship.

For some hours it appeared that Trotsky might be saved but even his iron will could not overcome such a blow. On the following day he died.

Stalin succeeded in assassinating Trotsky. He could not wipe out the effect of Trotsky's exposure of his frame-up system. Nor could he destroy the program of socialist revolution which Trotsky represented.

Today the truth about Stalinism is seeping into every corner of the world. And we see in the struggles of Yugoslavia and the great mass revolts in the Far East a bright harbinger of the rebirth of the world socialist revolution for which Trotsky lived and died.

spond forever to the old lure of the "lesser evil"—the futile quest for a few "good apples" in a barrel of rotten capitalist two-party politics.

"They are looking for a new road. They will respond eagerly to the call of a party that is truly free of capitalist political ties."

"Build labor's own party and run labor's own candidates! That was one theme of the Socialist Workers Party election campaign this year. That is the truth hammered home by the 1950 elections results."

## Trotskyist Poll Up In U.S. Elections

Thanks to the treacherous policy of political company-unionism still practised by the American union leadership, U.S. labor's greatest political campaign, in support of the capitalist war-mongering, red-baiting Democratic Party, ended in a fiasco with its Republican twin registering gains across the nation in the Nov. 7 elections. But the American workers marked up at least one notable victory in the general debacle. That was the vote cast for the candidates of the Socialist Worker's Party, (Trotskyist).

Running far fewer candidates than in the 1948 presidential elections, and in the framework of a much lower national turn-out, the SWP nevertheless increased its vote from 24,798 to almost 29,000 at last report. This includes only partial returns from several states, and does not include the powerful industrial state of Michigan in which the SWP ran a full slate, and from which minority party returns are not yet in. Joseph Hansen, running for U.S. Senator in N.Y., received 13,135 votes.

The election results have dealt a heavy blow to labor's prestige and morale, strengthened the most rabid reaction, and raised the confidence of every labor-hater in the country. In an editorial titled "Where Can Labor Go From Here?" published after the elections in its weekly THE MILITANT, the Socialist Workers Party states:

"The labor leaders bear the main responsibility for the failure to halt the swing of reaction. They offered the American people no real answer to the bi-partisan drive toward war, the rising prices and higher taxes."

"The American people—the workers, the oppressed Negroes, the poor farmers—aren't going to re-

**LABOR CHALLENGE** (89) Mid-Dec. 1950**GOOD VOTE FOR BRAND  
IN TORONTO ELECTION**

By ROSS DOWSON  
RWP Mayoralty Candidate  
1947-48-49

The press and radio played up, as the most significant aspect of the Toronto municipal election, the neck and neck struggle between Tory incumbent Mayor McCallum and ex-Liberal MPP and controller Lampport which brought out the biggest poll in the city's history and ended in McCallum squeezing back into the mayor's seat. But from the point of view of the working people of this city this was its least important aspect.

Far more significant was the vote rolled up by labor's candidate for Board of Control, Ford Brand, the thumping defeat of the fifth attempt in the last ten years to impose a 2-year term for city council on the electorate, and the debacle suffered by the candidates of the Stalinist Labor Progressive Party.

The Stalinists have been wiped out of the city council and whittled down to one in the 18-man Board of Education. Edna Ryerson, who traditionally leads the poll in Ward 5, held her seat by the slim margin of 439 votes when her poll was cut by almost one third. Stewart Smith, a top man in the Stalinist hierarchy and around whom their whole campaign was built, went down to ignominious defeat. One time a member of the Board of Control, polling 49,319 votes in 1948 and 45,418 in the face of an unbridled red-baiting campaign in 1950, this year Smith scored only 28,309 votes.

The Stalinist vote dropped precipitously right across the city. They put on their usual razzle-dazzle campaign, put on their most respectable non-class front and tried every unctuous dodge in the book, but to no effect. Refusing to support CCF candidates, they jumped onto Liberal demagogue Lampport's blarey mayoralty bandwagon. They pushed Lampport in their press and campaigned for him in the shops.

Lampport, who outdid the Stalinists in demagoguery, returned their favors by keeping mum on the "communist" question. He used them: Their machine befuddled many workers who are moving along the road to class politics to roll up in Ward 5 a vote for Lampport that was double McCallum's. But their betrayal of labor profited them nothing.

Some of the fall in Stalinist vote can no doubt be accounted for by the continuing red baiting campaign. But their eclipse in this

election in the face of Brand's poll requires further explanation. No doubt more and more workers are shying away from the Smiths, Freeds and Sims as the international crisis unfolds and they increasingly show themselves to be mere lick-spittles of the Kremlin oligarchy.

Ford Brand, running for Board of Control for the first time, in the face of the Smith debacle, rolled up 66,235 votes to stand fifth in a race that gives the top four candidates seats on the Board. Secretary of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council (AFL-TLC), a former CCF federal candidate, and endorsed by both the CCL and TLC councils, Brand was sponsored by the newly formed Labor Citizens Committee.

As Smith had been in the past, this year Brand was endorsed by the influential Liberal Daily Star. Early in the campaign the Star editorialized against Brand as a man with insufficient experience to sit with the stooges of the Tory machine which at present packs the City Hall. A week or so later the Star switched and placed Brand on its slate. Possibly in return for this favor the Labor Citizens Committee, which had previously been talking about placing an extensive slate of candidates before the electorate, dropped the idea and endorsed only one other candidate, a CCFer, who lost his seat on Council but almost doubled his vote. Other CCFers, with no backing from the committee and who ran without the party label, retained the few scattered seats they held previously or polled slight increases.

The STAR's support of Brand was a cynical and cheap gesture. In endorsing Brand they dropped from their slate Controller Innes who has traditionally led the poll and whose re-election they themselves said "was certain," retained the other two incumbents, and added on an ex-alderman whom they campaigned for hot and heavy, along with the other two capitalist dailies.

The Brand campaign was not effectively taken into the shops but considering the reactionary property qualifications that disfranchise the most progressive strata of the population the 66,235 votes it rolled up represents quite an achievement. It should be the inspiration and it is certainly the basis for the presentation next year of an extensive slate of labor candidates that can win and make this city a citadel of labor.